

Poster by Jesse Miller



# Valley arts fest spotlights artists and venues

by LOUISA HUFSTADER

Napa Valley's arts and culture scene is well worth a celebration—and that's just what will be happening this autumn, when a new kind of festival makes its debut at locations all around the county.

Dubbed Napa Valley ARTS 2010—ARTS 2010, for short—the month-long festival will include close to 100 different events, including concerts, open studios, plays and films. Although some of the shows will feature internationally known attractions, the lion's share of the festival offerings will be created and presented by Napa County artists. Now celebrating its 30th year of supporting and promoting the county's cultural community, the non-profit Arts Council is sponsoring the festival.

ARTS 2010 officially opens October 15 with an artists' reception at Mumm Napa and a photography exhibit called "Meet The Makers." The exhibit itself opens over a week earlier on October 6 and runs until October 31. It is an exhibition of portraits of 15 Napa Valley artists by four local photographers: Dona Kopol Bonick, Suzanne Becker Bronk, Kristine Cummins and Chick Harrity. (Several of the images are shown on the opposite page). Featured alongside the portraits will be a special audio tour of selected subject interviews and responsive creations by the affectionately dubbed "Art Girls," students of Napa art educator Lynne Tuft. The Art Girls—Hannah Bradford, Ruby Harvey, and Grace Murphy—are three pre-teen artists who have been mentored by Tuft for the past several years. Their interviews will be available via the exhibition's catalog using Smart Phone QR code technology.

For the next month, the festival continues. Some of the many intriguing offerings include the interactive Passport Through Time Downtown History Day, presented November 6 by a coalition of non-profit groups including the Napa County Historical Society, the Napa Valley Museum and the Napa County Hispanic Network.

Guided by costumed docents, History Day participants will create their own passports and take part in activities like making tortillas, designing an original Bear Flag and playing Victorian games.

On November 2, students in the Advanced Placement Spanish literature class will present live readings to introduce their new project, a podcast called "La Vida Loca."

Nov. 13 introduces Dr. Spin's Propaganda Machine Film & Video Extravaganza, an all-day festival of short films—ranging in length from one minute to one hour—presented by Wandering Rose, an

organization promoting independent, experimental and pop art in the Napa Valley.

The Arts Council has printed a catalog for ARTS 2010, although more events have been added since it went to press. Up-to-date listings are always online at the Arts Council's Web site, [www.nvarts.org](http://www.nvarts.org).

The Arts Council and its many business, non-profit and individual sponsors aren't shooting for instant fame with the festival, but they do have confidence that ARTS 2010 will bring more people to downtown Napa—not just tourists, but Napa neighbors as well. And there's another benefit, observes real estate developer Harry Price, who is also president of the Arts Council board.

Price says the arts are good for business.

"The hotels like cultural tourism, because they know that cultural tourists stay longer—on the average, five or more days—and they spend more money," says Price.

"We believe this will make people so much more aware of all the things that are going on that eventually, over a few years, Napa will become an arts destination."

"This event will bring people in and put them in the shops that line the streets, and they don't have to wait a year for another street fair," he explains. They can come back next week for a show at the Uptown."

"The Napa Valley is unique, in that for a place that has about 135,000 residents we have

such a rich variety of artistic resources, from visual arts to performing arts," says Bob Almeida, president of the historic Napa Valley Opera House and a member of the board of Arts Council Napa Valley.

"Our cultural resources are a real differentiator," Almeida says. "That's something that isn't fully appreciated by all residents, and it's certainly not featured as it should be when the valley is promoted to visitors."

But that's starting to change, as more people from around the Bay Area are making Napa a cultural destination when they attend concerts at the Opera House or the Uptown Theatre. The opening of the Uptown, a refurbished movie palace that now hosts music and comedy shows, has brought a flood of new visitors to downtown, where they spend money at restaurants, shops and hotels. A recently installed ArtWalk added ten new sculptures to the downtown streetscape.

While solidly focused on highlighting local artists and venues, ARTS 2010 aims to give autumn tourists yet another good reason to visit, and linger in, the Napa Valley—especially in downtown Napa, where more than half of the events are taking place at a rate of more than one each day for the entire month.

## MEET THE MAKERS

PORTRAITS OF THE CREATIVE COMMUNITY IN NAPA VALLEY

Oct. 6-31, Mumm Napa, 8445 Silverado Trail, Rutherford

Opening Reception: Oct. 15, 6-8:30 pm

6-7 pm Preview: \$60 per person or \$99 per couple

7-8:30 pm Reception: \$25 per person, includes hors d'oeuvres and Mumm Napa sparkling wine. All ages; tickets online at Brown Paper Tickets or from Arts Council Napa Valley at (707) 257-2117.

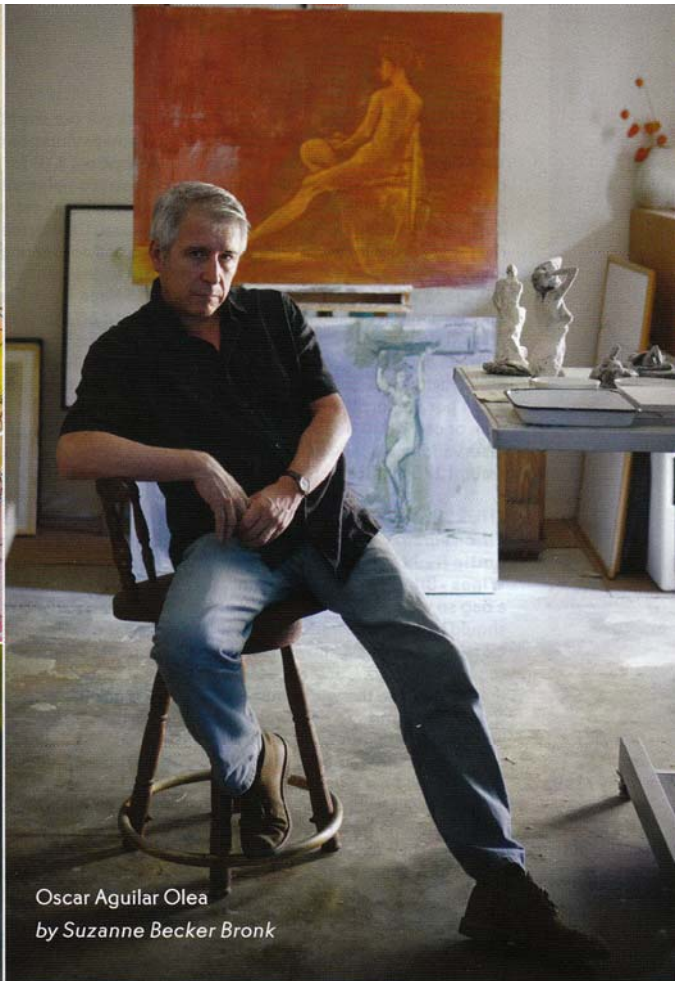
Layla Fanucci  
by Chick Harrity



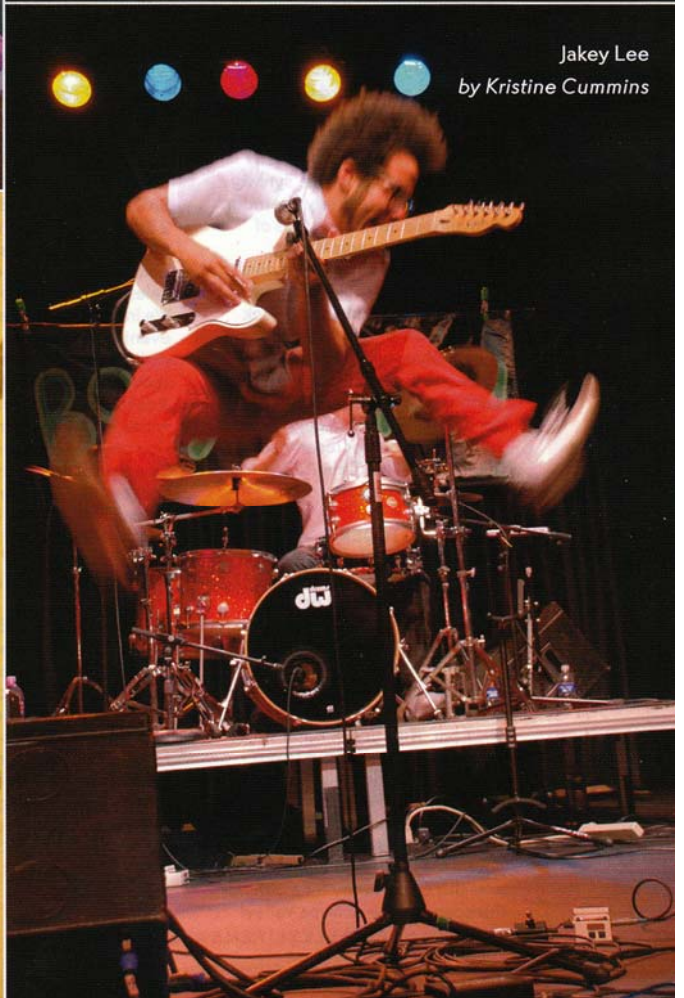
The Art Girls with Lynne Tuft  
by Suzanne Becker Bronk



Robilee Frederick  
by Dona Kopol Bonick



Oscar Aguilar Olea  
by Suzanne Becker Bronk



Jakey Lee  
by Kristine Cummins