



CALS Tours – Recap of 2014 and Our Recent Trip to Chico *with Photos!*

After finishing this article about our fun and lively tours, we bet you'll race to get your pen and fill out the registration form to join us this year. We're always on the lookout for new and exciting places to visit – and we've found some! To whet your appetite, here's a recap of last year with a few wonderful photos from our CALS photographer, Lucille van Ommering and some of our members such as Stephen Payer and Zohreh Whitaker.

Our first tour last year was in March to the de Young Museum for the 30th Anniversary of Bouquets to Art. We viewed over 140 floral arrangements created to accompany works of art in the de Young Museum's permanent collection. In addition, we were able to view paintings by Georgia O'Keeffe in her Lake George period of modernism and abstraction. We also viewed another exhibit called The Bay Bridge: A Work in Progress by Peter Stackpole. These were newly acquired photographs that documented the bridge's original construction in the 1930's.



Our second tour was a day of gallery hopping in Benicia. We started the day at the Plein Air Gallery then followed the Benicia Art Walk to browse a number of First Street galleries. We then took a guided tour of the Benicia Capitol and the adjoining Fischer-Hanlon House which was once a Gold Rush hotel. We were entertained at the Lindsay Art Glass Gallery with a glass blowing demonstration. We were shown how artist Davis Lindsay uses this ancient art form to create work inspired by the sea and nature with movement and flow in his unique paperweights and vessels. We then boarded the bus and headed to the Smyers and Nourot Glass Studios for another demonstration. Each studio is recognized for its own distinctive style of hand-blown glass. Smyers is known for its designs of functional glassware and Nourot is famous for its use of intense red color. We boarded the bus again for the short ride to the Benicia Arsenal. For over 100 years, the arsenal was the primary US Army Ordinance facility for the West Coast. After it was decommissioned in 1962, it became a thriving artist community. We toured the Arts Benicia Gallery and a few of the art studios in the area before boarding the bus for home. It was quite an exhilarating day with too much to absorb!



Our third tour was a visit to Filoli and Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University. The weather was beautiful and the flowers were in bloom. We leisurely strolled through the house and gardens and enjoyed lunch in the Filoli Café. Filoli represents an excellent example of architecture and garden design from the first part of the twentieth century. At the Cantor Museum, we had time to browse the indoor art and outside sculptures before heading home.



Our fourth tour was to the Bruce Beasley Sculpture Garden & Studio Gallery in Oakland. We thoroughly enjoyed listening to Mr. Beasley discuss how he creates his sculptures ranging from cast aluminum to Lucite to bronze to granite and wood. He guided us on a tour of his studio and garden area and signed many of his books before we had to leave. Our next stop was the Oakland Museum where we had lunch in the Blue Oak Café and viewed the Museum's special exhibit Vinyl: The Sound and Culture of Records.



Our fifth tour was to Cornerstone Sonoma where we enjoyed a catered lunch and strolled through the gallery-style gardens. The first such gallery-style gardens in the U.S., the nine-acre Cornerstone Gardens was created as an inspiration and resource for people interested in gardens, garden design, and art. Large sculptures were dotted throughout the gardens and it was a feast for the eyes. After lunch, we boarded the bus again and headed to the Hess Collection Contemporary Art Museum and Winery. The beautiful building is a historic stone winery originally constructed in 1903. We were given a docent-led tour of the gallery then enjoyed a private wine tasting.





Our sixth, and last tour for the year, was to Maple Rock Gardens in Loomis. We savored a catered picnic lunch by High Hand Nursery and strolled through the meandering paths leading to garden areas ranging from Japanese style settings to a formal English garden. The owner, Scott Paris, visited with us and talked about his history and plans for future development. The weather had been rainy the day before but it was beautiful for our visit.



Now on to 2015: We have some exciting tours planned. If you haven't submitted your reservation and check yet, please send it in quickly. You don't want to miss out!

Make checks payable to CALS and mail to Jo Pine, 11435 Hesperian Circle, Gold River, 95670

Our first tour of 2015 was this past Wednesday to Chico – voted one of the Best Small Art Towns in America. We were entertained at the Satava Art Glass Studio with a demonstration by the owner, Richard Satava and his crew, plus a friendly cat. A few of their famous jellyfish sculptures and vases made their way back home on our bus! We then spent a couple of hours browsing the artsy shops, National Yo-Yo Museum, and viewed a few of the mosaic benches lining the sidewalks.

Next we were delighted with a tour by the owner, Roger Hart and his sister of Woof & Poof design studio. Many of the seamstresses have been there for 20-25 years and the detail work that they produce on each of the dolls, pillows, and wine bottle wraps were very intricate. We came away with a high appreciation for what goes into each piece. Next door we visited the Chico Art Center.

Our next stop was to Coorie Grey-Lavin's mosaic studio. She invited Bernard Vigallon with his bird houses and Steve Watson to showcase his pottery. A number of pieces from each artist were sold to our members – hopefully we'll have a show'n'tell at our next general meeting.

Our last stop was to Dave & Jana Lawton's double-studio and sculpture garden. Jana gave us the tour of their property which used to be a car repair shop. The fountain in the courtyard used to house the lift for the cars. They created quite a unique and serene studio setting with Jana's mosaic pottery pieces and Dave's large metal sculptures in the yard.

Here are some of the photos from Lucille van Ommerring, Stephen Payer & Zohreh Whitaker...what a fun day!





Thanks to Lucille van Ommering for taking our group photo!



In April, we'll once again head to the de Young Museum for the annual Bouquets to Art. In addition, we'll view their special exhibit - Botticelli to Braque: Masterpieces from the National Galleries of Scotland. This is an enchanting event that is held just for one week where talented floral designers bring imaginative interpretations to works in the de Young's permanent collections. For the first time, we will be there on opening day so the flowers will be the freshest and most beautiful! **We have just a few seats available so call and send your reservation in now – don't delay – you know the saying...first check received is the first-person that gets the seat!**

In May, we're heading to the di Rosa Art Preserve for a docent-led tour. Di Rosa spans over 200 acres including a 35-acre lake and wildlife preserve. The di Rosa collection includes modern and contemporary paintings, drawings, sculptures, and photographs by well known Bay Area artists. After the tour, we'll head to Old Town Sonoma for lunch and gallery hopping. **This tour is sold out with a short waiting list.**

In July, we're off to the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek for their annual Sculpture in the Garden event. Every July, dozens of artists produce and install public-scale sculptures along the garden paths. We'll re-board the bus and head to Old Town Benicia for lunch and gallery hopping on your own. We toured many of the studios last March but it was such a whirlwind of a day, that we're going to revisit the First Street area again in a relaxed mode. **To-date, we're at 50% capacity so get those registration forms in quickly.**

Also in July, we're going to tour the Clayton Bailey Art Museum in Crockett - 3200 sq ft gallery/showroom of his metal and ceramic sculptures. We'll then head to Fort Mason in S.F. for the annual American Craft Council show. This is the largest juried craft show west of the Rockies. **We have 10 spots available for this tour.**

In September, we're going to take a docent-led tour of Mare Island. The mission of Mare Island is to preserve and present to the public the history of the West's first Naval Base & Shipyard. We will tour the area and four of the most historic buildings to include St Peter's Chapel, renowned for the beautiful Tiffany stained glass windows. We'll also enjoy a catered buffet lunch during the tour. We'll then head to Coal Shed Studios, located nearby on the island. The historic Coal Sheds building provides individual creative work spaces for 19 artists working in a variety of media. It has been said that Mare Island will soon be the next Sausalito – a haven for artists. **We have 8 spots available for this tour to-date.**

As you can see, our tours are filling up so don't delay. Join us - Make some new friends and memories with us this year.

Creative Arts League of Sacramento – Tour Team
Pam Trump, Jo Pine & Beth Tronvig

calsarttours@icloud.com

www.creativeartsleague.com/tours/