



CALS Tours – Recap of 2015 *with Photos!*

We just finished another fun-filled year of tours. This is my last year-end recap that I'll be writing as I'm turning the tour Crown over to two new Tour Queens – Rebecca Blythe and Sue Northart. We're always on the lookout for new and exciting places to visit – if you have any suggestions, we're all ears! We know you are hurrying to get your registration form in the mail for our first tour of 2016 slated for Feb 2 so don't delay. If you need another registration form or have any questions, don't hesitate to call us (suenorthart@yahoo.com or 916-804-9303).

Below is a recap of the lively tours that were held this year along with photos below are from our CALS Photographer Lucille van Ommering, plus photos from Stephen Payer, Zohreh Whitaker, Connie Spickelmier & me (Pam Trump). We hope you enjoy them and entice you to sign up early for the 2016 tour lineup!

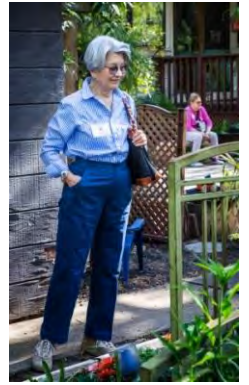
CHICO Tour #1 – March 25

Our first tour this year was to Chico – voted one of the Best Small Art Towns in America. At the Satava Art Glass Studio, we enjoyed 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! Next we spent a couple of hours browsing the artsy shops in City Plaza including the national Yo-Yo Museum, and viewed a few of the mosaic benches lining the sidewalks. After lunch, we visited the Woof & Poof Studio and were given a tour by the owner, Roger Hart and his sister. 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. Once again they had a booth in our Crocker Artisan Holiday Market and we were told that they are closing the shop. No word yet on the details. We were lucky to have a chance to see the operation this year.

Next door we visited the Chico Art Center then moved on to Coorie Grey-Lavin's mosaic studio. She invited Bernard Bigallon with his bird houses and Steve Watson to showcase his pottery. A number of pieces from each artist were sold to our members.

Our last stop of the day 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.





DeYoung Museum Tour #2 – April 14

In April, we once again visited the de Young Museum for the annual Bouquets to Art. In addition, we viewed their special exhibit – Botticelli to Braque: Masterpieces from the National Galleries of Scotland. This wonderful event is only held one week a year and we were able to secure tickets on their opening day so all the flowers were fresh. The paintings selected for the Botticelli to Braque exhibit included works by Paul Cezanne, Sandro Botticelli, Diego Velazquez, and Johannes Vermeer.





Di Rosa Art Preserve & Sonoma Tour #3 - May 27

Di Rosa spans over 200 acres including a 35-acre lake and wildlife preserve. We enjoyed a private docent-led tour of the art collection including modern and contemporary paintings, drawings, sculptures, and photographs by Bay Area artists. After the tour, we went to Old Town Sonoma for lunch and gallery hopping. By popular demand, we are going back again to visit di Rosa next May. There was just too much to take in during one visit. We are also planning a visit to the Artesa Winery (next door) for lunch and to visit their art collection. More details to come.



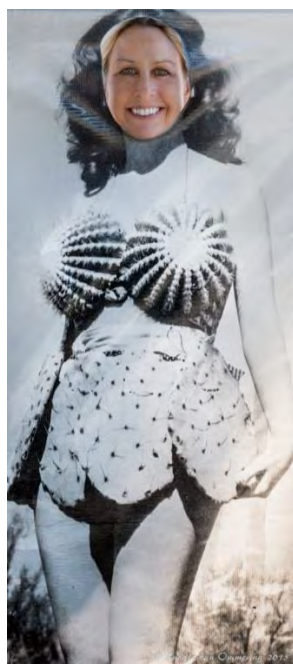




Ruth Bancroft Garden & Historic Benicia Tour #4 – July 14

Every July, dozens of artists produce and install public-scale sculptures along the Ruth Bancroft Garden paths. We enjoyed a docent-led tour of the extensive collection of rare succulents and drought-tolerant plants, trees, and shrubs which provided a spectacular backdrop for the sculptures. Many plants and art pieces were for sale and made their way home with us. We re-boarded the bus and headed to historic First Street in Benicia. We had visited last year but the day had been so busy with timed tours, so we chose to revisit again at a more leisurely pace. We browsed the shops and galleries and ended our day at the park just in time to view the final leg of the Special Olympic Torch Rally.





Clayton Bailey & ACC Show Tour #5 – July 31

The Clayton Bailey Art Museum is a 3200 sq ft gallery/showroom filled with his wild and wacky metal and ceramic sculptures. His wife Betty was also on hand to show some of her watercolor paintings. In addition, we visited the Crockett Historical Museum across the street. Our next stop was to Fort Mason for the annual American Craft Council Show. We browsed the 230+ artist booths of the top contemporary jewelry, clothing, furniture and home décor from across the country. This show is the largest juried craft show west of the Rockies.

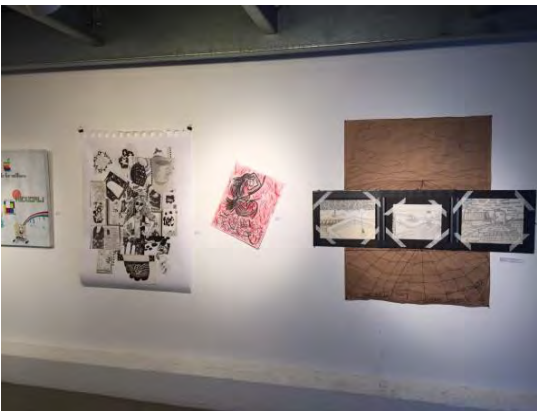




Mare Island Tour #6 – Sept 23

Our last tour was to Mare Island for a docent-led tour of the Museum, St Peter's Chapel (with its beautiful Tiffany stained glass windows) and the Admiral's Mansion. We learned that the mission of Mare Island is to preserve and present to the public the history of the West's first Naval Base & Shipyard. After the tour, we enjoyed a buffet lunch at the Zio Fraedo Restaurant on the waterfront. We then returned over the bridge back to Mare Island to visit the Coal Shed Studios. The historic Coal Sheds building is chock-full of artist work spaces all working in a variety of media. We were pleased to be able to pre-view their upcoming exhibit "*Doodle Do & Doodle Don't*".







In case you missed the last email, I'd like to introduce you to the **2016 Tour Team**:

Co-Chairs: Rebecca Blythe & Sue Northart

Friend of CALS Chair & Tour Registration: Jo Pine

Hospitality: Beth Tronvig

Photographer: Lucille van Ommering

The first tour in 2016 will be February 2 to the Asian Art Museum. Be sure to sign up as the date is fast approaching. We'll visit the internationally renowned exhibition, *Looking East: How Japan inspired Monet, Van Gogh, and other Western artists*. It explores the influence of Japanese art which led to a shift in Western art, and includes great impressionist and post-impressionist painters including Van Gogh, Cassatt, Degas, Gauguin and Monet – alongside rare works by influential Japanese artists. This visit will include a museum-led docent tour plus time to visit other exhibits in the museum. Lunch will be on your own in the café.

The remaining tours of 2016 are still being finalized. Not all of the venues have their pricing firmed up quite yet so we can't finalize our registration form. It will be emailed to everyone shortly.

Any questions regarding the tours, don't hesitate to contact:
Sue Northart at 916-804-9303 or email Sue at suenorthart@yahoo.com.

Happy New Year from the Creative Arts League. We hope to see you on all of our tours next year!

Pam Trump, Board VP & 2015 Tour Chair

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