

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



52 years in the making...

Congratulations to the hundreds of artists who participated in Art in the Redwoods this year! I heard lots of "best year yet" and "the quality of art is even better this year" and "so many diverse techniques and materials." We were blessed by thorough and thoughtful judges, April and Ron Dammann, who made some fine and difficult choices with over 300 entries in 16 categories.

I am proud to have so many first time exhibitors involved this year as well! It really warms my heart and soul to know that we are encouraging and fostering so much creative enthusiasm in our community. Not to mention the "red dot" awards bestowed by our visitors through their purchases.

We welcomed some new ideas this year like the "Community Lane" which featured and highlighted some of our community gems with services groups, activities and businesses. We dedicated the Global Harmony Sculpture Garden, which includes the first Haiku Path in the United States.

Opening the festival, our Top Hat dinner was a smashing success. We had 130 guests enjoying fine wines and delightful food lovingly prepared and donated by our very own Rosemary Campiformio, Executive Chef of St. Orres.

Speaking of donors, we are very grateful for our generous sponsors of the Festival this year. We are listing all of our sponsors and winning artists in this issue of *Sketches* so you can see how much support this festival is getting through our entire community.

Gualala Arts is starting to seek support from individuals and regional businesses for specific arts programs. This funding would complement the very generous cash and in-kind donations from local people and local businesses. It would also focus a spotlight on business partners who realize the benefits of having a healthy arts community. We hope you will choose to patronize businesses who support your local artists and art venues.

If you have suggestions or connections with an individual or business that you feel would be a good match for Art in the Redwoods, Whale & Jazz Festival, Chamber Music, Local Eyes, Global Harmony Series, or any of our programming, please let me know. We will welcome them into our family of sponsors. By strengthening this area of support, we hope to reduce the number of fundraising pleas to our local community. This will free us all to focus on THE ARTS!

YOU make a difference with every choice.

Thank you for choosing to make Art in the Redwoods such a success this year!

David 'Sus' Susalla
Executive Director
Gualala Arts, Inc.

