



Article Last Updated: 6/08/2006 02:53 AM

Carmel horsewoman, gallery owner's art selected for Vista Center benefit

Column by Bonny Zanardi
Inside Bay Area

CYNDRA Bradford has been selected as official artist of the 35th annual Menlo Charity Horse Show which benefits the Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Her painting "Up and Over" will appear on the invitations, posters, T-shirts and other event materials. A print will be available for bid at the Aug. 11 dinner and auction.

Bradford, the daughter of two noted artists, grew up in Big Sur. By age 24 she was inducted into the Carmel Art Association. In 1999, she opened Galerie Plein Aire in Carmel.

Before she opened the gallery, Bradford painted only landscapes, beginning her plein air painting in acrylics and then expanding to oils. As she worked full time in the gallery she turned to painting oils of horses, applying what she had learned about painting landscapes.

The artist says she has always had a passion for horses and when not painting or working she is riding her Morgan gelding, Harley.

The Menlo Horse Show began including an official artist three years ago when LeRoy Neiman donated an equestrian print. The show itself started as a neighborhood event but has grown immensely over the years. Betsy Klikbarg has chaired the show for all its 35 years. Last year the event raised \$400,000 for the Vista Center.

This year's show runs Aug. 8 to 13 at the Menlo Circus Club, 190 Park Lane, Atherton. Activities start at 7 a.m. each show day, with classes running simultaneously in the two hunter rings and one jumper ring.

Daily tickets are \$10, or \$35 for the week. Tickets for the dinner and auction Aug. 11 are \$175. For information, call Nancy W. Collins at (650) 324-1005, or e-mail dinnerdance@menlohorseshow.com. For reservations, call Pam Perez at (650) 856-7840 or e-mail reservations@menlohorseshow.com.