

Left Coast Annual Awards Announced

Four artists received awards at Sanchez Art Center's *2012 Left Coast Annual*, juried by Michael Schwager of Sonoma State University. Jon Gariepy and Michael Acker were awarded the Juror's Exhibition Award, each receiving \$250 plus an exhibition in 2013; and Alan Grinberg and Sheila G. Ticen each received a Juror's Award of Merit with \$250. Over 500 pieces were submitted to the juror, who selected 55 for this exhibit. Gariepy and Acker will exhibit in Sanchez Art Center's East Gallery in April of 2013.



Michael Acker works with photographs, watercolor, and collage to build layered images of houses or buildings. Two of Acker's pieces were accepted into the *Left Coast Annual*, and he received an exhibition award for the work titled *Transition*, which pictures a small strip mall-type building that seems to be sagging in the middle, collaged together with other architectural images, and covered by a beautifully complex and cloudy sky.

Jon Gariepy is fascinated by boats, ships, and water, and shows his love for them in his work. His clay piece titled *Make My Day* is a 12" x 56" x 8" ship in a beautiful ivory color that seems to have been broken and weathered by the elements. When one looks closely, one is surprised to see that the tiny windows open into a hidden interior life.



Sheila G. Ticen received a merit award for her oil painting titled *Hereafter*, which shows us a long, narrow, empty laundromat. The predominant colors are pink, pale blue, gray, and white, creating a reflective mood that is underscored by the many surfaces reflecting light in the painting.



Alan Grinberg's digital photograph, *The Fog of Route 1*, is both real and surreal, as the taillights of receding vehicles melt into a stream of rosy light and the swoop of an overpass seen from below takes on the shape of a tornado. Grinberg received a merit award for this tour de force.

Juror Michael Schwager is Professor of Art History and Museum Studies and Director of the University Art Gallery at Sonoma State University. He holds a BFA from the California College of Arts and Crafts and an MA in Museum Studies from JFK University. Before coming to Sonoma State, Michael held positions at the San Francisco Art Institute, the Richmond Art Center, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. While he has worked with artists from across the United States and beyond, his primary focus has been on contemporary Bay Area art, about which he has organized numerous exhibitions. Certainly he chose a distinctive array of artworks by California artists for the *Left Coast Annual*, and for these awards.