



*John Seed: Paintings Then and Now*







John Seed: Mt. San Jacinto College 2013



Stanford, 1978



Berkeley, 1982



Laguna Beach, 2021

**John Seed: *Paintings Then and Now***

Cambria Center for the Arts  
September 3 - October 30, 2022

Special Thanks to:  
Sherri Parisian, Cindy Stiles and Janet Rooney



Wine and Roses, 1984



Ragged Point, 2021



## Introduction:

This exhibition, which includes paintings made between 1984 and 2022 is a kind of micro-retrospective. In addition to being a very small show, it also a show with an empty center since it includes no paintings made between 1994 and 2020. That is because I was often too busy to paint from the early 90s onward. I was busy teaching at a community college, being a dad and writing about art. After retiring from teaching in 2017 and moving to Cambria in 2018 I couldn't wait to start painting again. It started with a leather-covered sketchbook that my wife Linda gave me as a gift so I could paint and sketch outside. By the time the pandemic appeared I had set up an indoors studio where I have painted more than 400 small watercolors.

About a year ago I got a surprise. I was contacted by a woman who told me that her parents had lived with my large oil painting "Wine and Roses" since purchasing it at a benefit auction for the Long Beach Art Museum in 1985. Both had now passed away and she asked me "Would you like it back?" I said "yes" and it was shipped from Chicago in a huge crate that appeared in our Cambria driveway one afternoon. "Wine and Roses" is the only painting I still own from my only one man show, which took place at Newspace Gallery in Los Angeles in September of 1984. It is a reminder an era in which I exhibited very large paintings that were about both the joy of life and the pleasures of art. It is joined in this show by an oil painting of the Roman Colosseum I painted while teaching a course that included Roman art and architecture. There is also a my stripe filled "Hemet Still Life" from 1994. If you look at these large oils and find them energetic, joyful and a bit humorous, that is pretty much how I feel about them.

While I was working on my Master's in Painting at UC Berkeley a guest speaker once told my class "Someday you will have a storage problem." He was right. Shortly after graduating I took almost all my grad school paintings to the dump. Although there were a few paintings I miss, it made my life much easier. Now, as a watercolorist, everything I paint fits under the bed in a plastic storage bin from Target. The watercolors in this show have been chosen because I think they are among my best efforts. For each successful watercolor many others were torn in half and tossed out. Although you may feel like you recognize familiar coastal locations—San Simeon, Big Sur, and Fiscalini Ranch—you should know that I think of these as abstract paintings that don't need to be accurate or traceable. Many of them are totally invented. My watercolors are painted with brilliantly hued Sennelier watercolors and Kolinsky sable brushes: more fine gifts from my wife meant to encourage me to paint.

John Seed



*Wine and Roses*, 1982, Oil and encaustic on canvas, 65 1/2 x 56 inches



*Hemet Still Life*, 1994, Oil on canvas, 47 x 47 inches





*The Colosseum*, 1990, Oil on canvas, 60 1/2 x 48 1/2 inches

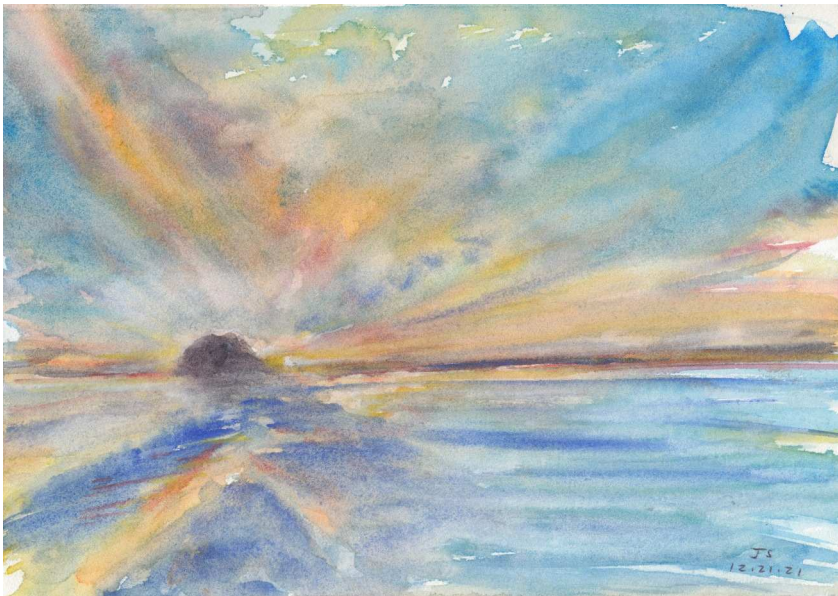


*Evan with her Chickens*, 2019, Watercolor on  
BFK rag paper, 19 x 13 1/4 inches





*Sunset #1*, 2021, Watercolor on BFK rag paper, 16 x 12 inches



*Twin Pines*, 2020, Watercolor on BFK rag paper, 9 1/4 x 6 1/4 inches

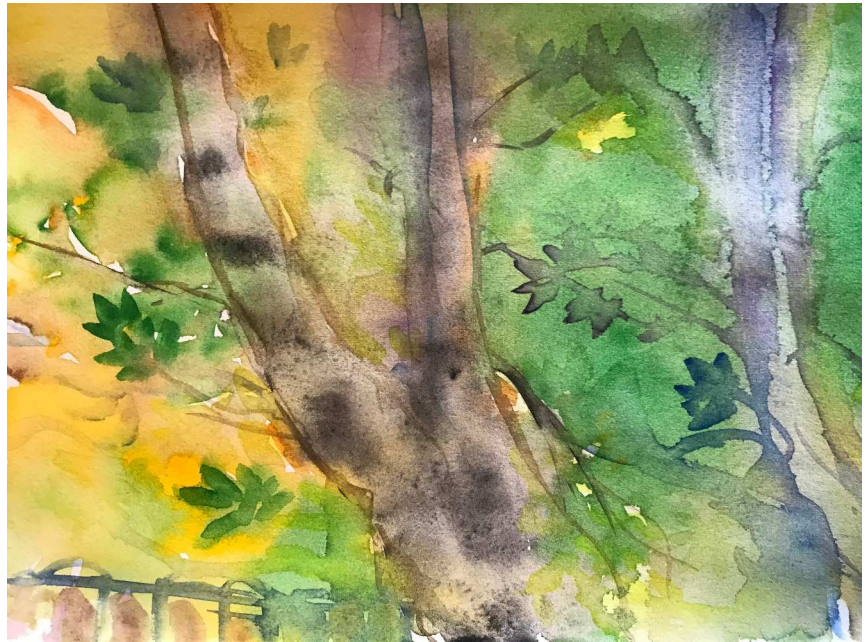
*Morro Rock*, 2021, Watercolor on BFK rag paper, 9 1/4 x 6 1/4 inches

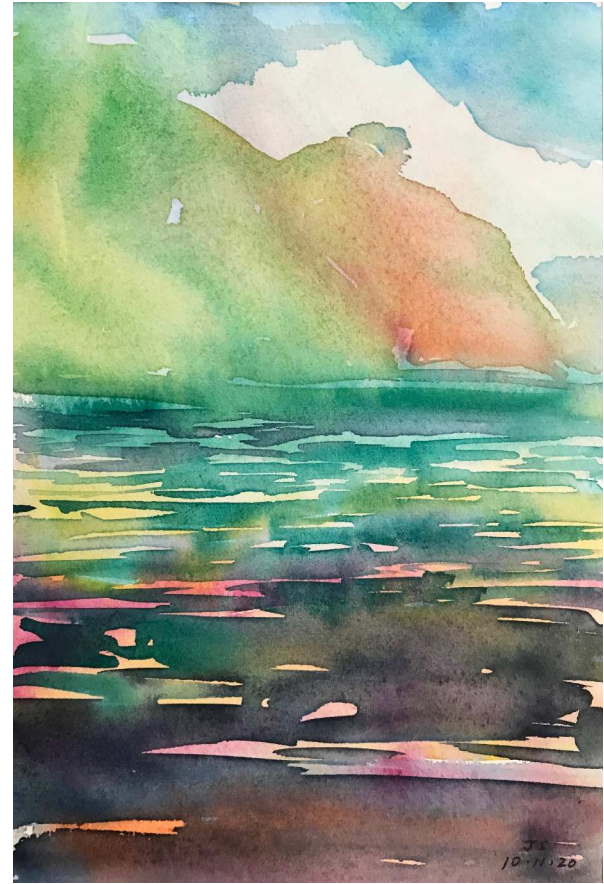




*Purple Pines*, 2020, Watercolor on BFK rag paper, 9 1/4 x 6 1/4 inches

*Oak Trees*, 2022, Watercolor on BFK rag paper, 9 1/4 x 6 1/4 inches





*Pines and Sea*, 2022, Watercolor on BFK rag paper, 9 1/4 x 6 1/4 inches

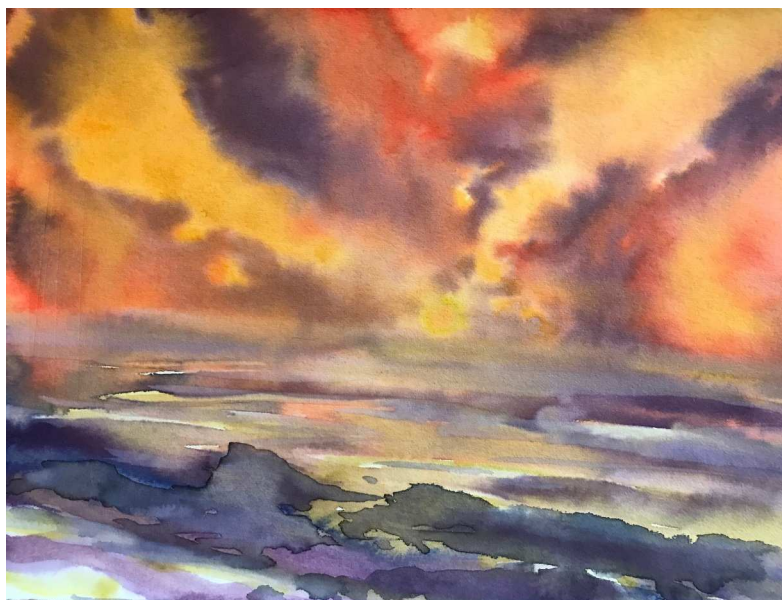
*Towards the Bluffs*, 2020, Watercolor on BFK rag paper, 6 1/4 x 9 1/4 inches





*Cove*, 2022, Watercolor on BFK rag paper, 9 1/4 x 6 1/4 inches

*Sunset #2*, 2021, Watercolor on BFK rag paper, 9 1/4 x 6 1/4 inches



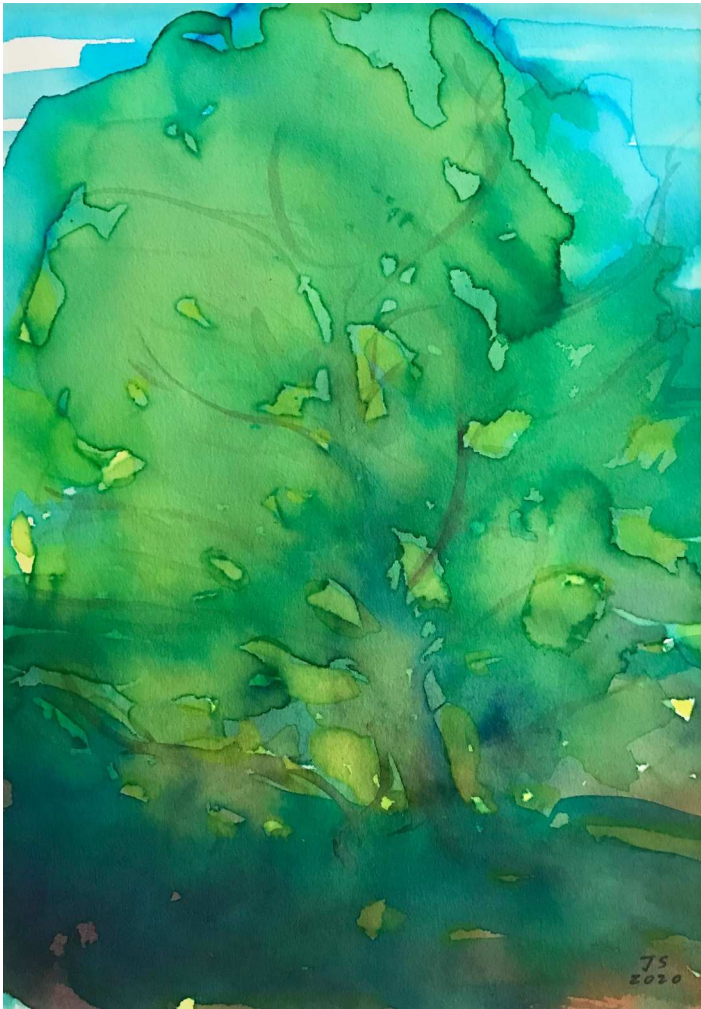


*Shoreline*, 2022, Watercolor on BFK rag paper, 9 1/4 x 6 1/4 inches



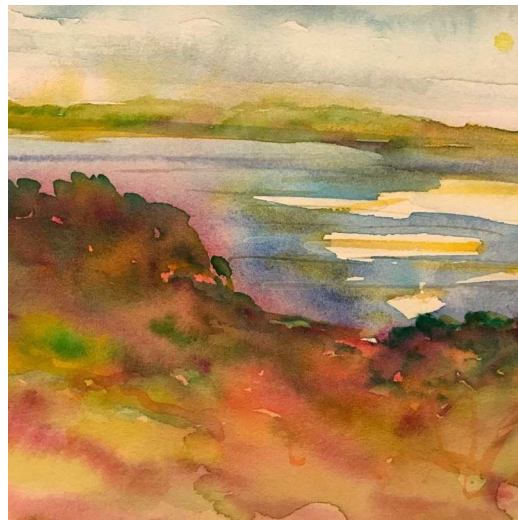
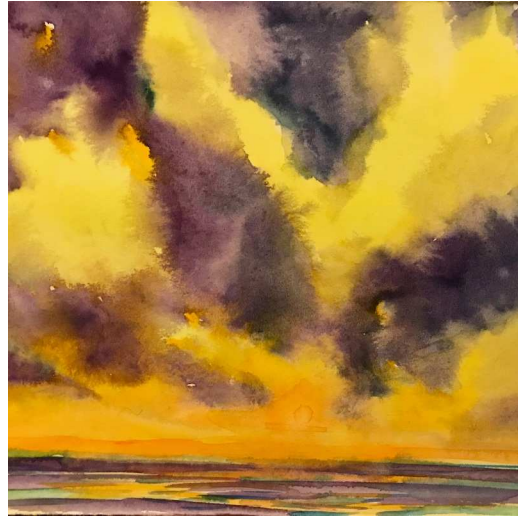
*Crow in a Tree*, 2020, Watercolor on BFK rag paper, 9 1/4 x 6 1/4 inches





*Green Pine*, 2020, Watercolor on BFK rag paper, 6 1/4 x 9 1/4 inches

*Ragged Point*, 2021, Watercolor on BFK rag paper, 6 1/4 x 9 1/4 inches



More watercolors



