

Best Bets for week of November 15 – November 21, 2012

[This is a transcript of Satri's Best Bets audio on www.sonomaarts.com]

Hi, this is Satri Pencak, with my **Best Bets** in the visual arts for this week.

This weekend at **The Quicksilver Mine Co.** in downtown Forestville is the opening reception for a very special exhibition. The show is called **The Last Hurrah**. Its noteworthy status is due to the fact that this will be the **last** and **final** exhibition at the gallery. After almost **30** celebrated years, owner Khysie Horn has decided to close the gallery, and go on to do other things. **The Last Hurrah** features the work of nearly 100 artists and craftspeople who have exhibited at Quicksilver since the gallery first opened in its original Guerneville location in 1983. The exhibition is hung salon-style, which means the gallery is filled from floor to ceiling, and includes a wide range of art and fine crafts in a variety of media.

Over these past many years, The Quicksilver Mine Co has been one of the **best** art galleries in Sonoma County, and perhaps north of the Golden Gate Bridge. They have **consistently** shown high-quality exhibitions that were professionally installed and managed. Khysie has been a dedicated supporter of the arts in general. She has given many artists their first solo shows, and set aside part of the gallery space for on-going sales opportunities. She has exhibited the work of both emerging artists as well as those with established international reputations. This final exhibition represents just a small fraction of the close to **600** artists who have shown and sold their work at Quicksilver during the past 30 years.

Quicksilver has done more than just show and sell art. Khysie and her devoted team have also presented gallery talks, literary events, musical concerts, and community gatherings. I salute Khysie and her team for the many years of inspiring shows, and wish them all well in their next adventures. **The Last Hurrah** opens with a reception on Saturday, November 17, from 4 to 6 p.m., and will be on view through December 31. Go see the show, and express your best wishes to Khysie, Ray, and George. For more information, a history of the gallery, and a list of artists, check their website, quicksilvermineco.com.

The closing of Quicksilver will surely leave a big void, but it's also an opportunity for others to step forward. One place to look for that is in the South A Street Arts District in Santa Rosa, where a vibrant arts scene is blooming. This weekend, the SOFA arts district is celebrating their 8th annual **Winterblast** Festival on Saturday, November 17 from 5 to 8 p.m. Winterblast is a joyful street party celebrating the arts, and community. People of all ages are invited to enjoy open art galleries and studios, local food vendors, music, dance, street performers, **and** the one-of-a-kind SOFA Parade. You don't want to miss this free event. For more information, check their website, sofasantarosa.com.

For more in-depth art reviews and commentary please visit my website, satripencak.com.

Thanks for visiting the Sonoma Arts website.