

Oral interview with Val Muchowski – Women’s Voices on KZYX FM
February 3, 2014 at 7PM

The following is information that Carol Heady sent Val before the interview.

January 28, 2014

My name is Carol Heady. I was born here in Ukiah in 1939 and lived my entire life in Mendocino County.

I am a long time member of Mendocino County Art Association and rejoice at the opportunity to talk to you about the upcoming retrospective showing of members’ art at the Grace Hudson Museum here in Ukiah.

A long time ago overlooking the Pacific Ocean a large group of artists from all over the county met to become a legally organized Art Association. The date was in March of 1954.

In those olden days meetings were at different locations and it became hard for members to travel the long distances in a very large county such as ours. Because of this, it made sense that the Ukiah Valley section would become an independent group retaining the name of Mendocino County Art Association.

Ninety percent of the membership are women and mostly are of retirement age. Doing art is time consuming and most of the younger artists do not have time to work at their jobs, have babies and take care of their family. We do have workshops that take just a little time and other amenities that are fun and not time consuming. I say to the young who want to get into this very wonderful club, try it - you might like it; you will be welcomed with open arms, sincerity and a new world of opportunities to show and sell your artwork. It only costs 35 dollars for a year membership. Those 18 and under are half price. When birthdays or holidays come around, think of a gift membership to some doodler out there that would like to become a great artist. Surprise, you do not have to be famous or great, it’s not about that, it’s the joy of doing art and camaraderie with the membership that glows. Can’t draw a straight line you say? Well I say **you** are just what’s needed to be a good artist. What is more interesting, a perfectly straight line or a wiggly one?

The event that I am talking about today has taken more than 3 years in the making. Almost 100 percent of the members at one time or another donated their zeal and time into this show.

ARTISTS LOOK BACK – MCAA TURNS 60 A RETROSPECTIVE will open at the Grace Hudson Museum on Saturday, March 29th through Sunday May 25th.

This is a juried show, meaning that artists submit their photographed art and then a group of artists unassociated with MCAA pick and choose which art is best to represent the retrospective show. The names of the jurists will be published in the catalogue the museum is producing and can be purchased for 5 dollars.

This important and exciting display of 78 local artists work will present a wide array of paintings. Some of the art that is in the exhibit is by past members who are no longer with us. These will forever leave behind a mark on our world with their joy of painting. Other artists tell their stories with watercolor, oil, pen and ink, pastel including quilting, cloth, ceramic design and stained glass.

On the day of the Grand Opening, Saturday the 29th, there will be panel discussion giving information and answering questions about the show and those who participate in MCAA.

Family Fun at the Museum, “The Next Generation,” is sponsored by MCAA on Saturday, May 17. A MCAA member will teach this for children and advance signups will be through the Grace Hudson Museum.

There will be a color printed catalog available for sale in the gift shop during the exhibit.

A major undertaking by MCAA members is a wonderful DVD that will be available for sale at the museum gift shop which will include a slide show of selected old photographs from the group’s scrapbooks, interviews providing oral histories by senior members and a digital catalog of all the work featured in the exhibit. One thing leads to another and I’m thinking that movie making might be added to the repertoire of the association.

I wish to invite everyone to this wonderful showing of local artwork at the Grace Hudson Museum. Bring a friend and see it twice, you will be surprised what you didn’t see the first time.

Our web site is delicious with samples of artwork, and any information you need.

Mendocinoartassn.org will get you to what information you want about us.