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## Artists Look Back - Part 2: MCAA Turns 60

*By Svetlana Artemoff*



It startled me when I came across the headline of a clipping from our MCAA scrapbook, dated 1959, "Housewives Back to Kitchen After Course in Painting."

As I read the article, I realized that it would be an odd combination in this day and age, the ability to attend a 10-day outdoor workshop with a famous artist, and then be sent back to the kitchen. The article gave little attention to the fact that three of the 24 participants were men.

I realized how much has changed since 1959. As women joined the workforce, squeezing out two weeks for studies in art began to conflict with taking vacations with spouses and children. And, if men or women remained single or were single parents, art often had to take a back seat. It may explain why our current membership is mostly post-retirement age.

As Program Director for the MCAA, I find it difficult to get members to attend a full-day workshop Š let alone 10 days outdoors. I also know how costly it is to attract talented instructors, like Nat Levy, would came to teach here 54 years ago. I sincerely acknowledge the creative spirit and drive that existed in the art community at this time and hope our current members are duly inspired.

I was also drawn to this beautiful photo of Sue Scammon from the same year.

She is shown in front of a watercolor portrait she painted of Annie Burke and is holding baskets that were made by Annie and her daughter, Elsie Allen, both talented Pomo basket-weavers. I imagined these baskets, filled with a local harvest of grain, acorns and squash connecting us with the spirit of earlier Thanksgivings.

The preparation work for our Retrospective Exhibit will slow down during the holidays to help us all get in Š or out of the kitchen! The jury has selected the artwork that will hang at the Grace Hudson Museum and the oral histories for our video have been completed.

Now comes the hard, behind the scenes, work - to collate, trim, edit and publish the results. Our DVD team, Dorleen and Wayne McBride, Garry Colson and Linda Hicks, have already produced a 28-minute video of a recent workshop with Laura Fogg. Look for it on Mendocino Access Television, Channel #3. Their viewing schedule is available at [www.mendocinoaccess.org](http://www.mendocinoaccess.org).

For updates to our program or information about the Retrospective Exhibit, please check our website at [www.mendoncinoartassn.org](http://www.mendoncinoartassn.org), or call Svetlana Artemoff, 462-3279.