

NANCY DODDS GALLERY

Fresh Art in a Region of Color and Light

Carmel, California



Like artists, art galleries are directly impacted by their physical environments, so it's logical that a dealer located in the heart of Carmel-by-the-Sea, in easy striking distance of the blue-green Pacific and scenic Monterey Peninsula, should emphasize fresh air and natural beauty. Building upon this region's associations with such renowned landscapists as Armin Hansen (1886-1957) and E. Charlton Fortune (1885-1969), Nancy Dodds Gallery represents 28 living artists working primarily out of doors. Many participate regularly in the lively Carmel Art Festival, the 14th annual edition of which is set for May 17-20; like its neighbor businesses, the gallery keeps a busy schedule during the festival weekend.

Dealer Nancy Dodds began working in this 1,000-square-foot space downtown in 1989, directing Le Cella Gallery and refining its reputation for works on paper. In 1995 she bought the firm and renamed it, broadening its scope to painting and sculpture, but retaining the focus on contemporary California artists. Illuminated by several skylights and a welcoming Dutch door that is almost always open thanks to the area's fine weather, the gallery is further enlivened by Dodds' friendly cocker spaniels, who keep children busy while their parents study what's on the walls.

Among the standouts on Dodds' list are Stephen McMillan (b. 1949), who discovered etching while studying at the University of California (Santa Cruz). Today he makes compelling aquatint etchings of landscapes, drawn freehand after photographs he takes around the world. Another talent on regular view is Carolyn Lord (b. 1956), whose vivid, close-up watercolors of flower beds and gardens become semi-abstract under close observation. "Even though Carolyn uses an accessible subject," Dodds notes, "she brings to it a complex understanding of how these forms come together."

Similarly, the balance that Dodds' inventory strikes between the decorative and the more aesthetically challenging is noteworthy, and totally true to her region's spirit. ■

Information: Nancy Dodds Gallery, Hampton Courtyard, Seventh and San Carlos, PO Box 6016, Carmel, CA 93921; 831.624.0346; ndg@nancydodds-gallery.com; nancydodds-gallery.com

STEPHEN McMILLAN (b. 1949)
AFTER THE RAINS
1993, AQUATINT ETCHING, 4 x 16 in.



CAROLYN LORD (b. 1956)
DAPPLED LIGHT
2004, WATERCOLOR ON PAPER, 23 x 16 in.