

An art show from the heart

September 11, 2019



The California Redwoods Art Association and the 2nd Street Gallery and Gift Shop will host the third-annual Florence Keller Art Show from Sept. 11-15 in the Crescent City Cultural Center.

The show will feature art primarily from local artists, although works by artists all along the West Coast will be featured as well.

The show will include live and silent auctions, with Jeff Harris, superintendent of the Del Norte County Unified School District, serving as auctioneer.

This year, the show's silent auction on the 14th will be dedicated to raising funds for children's art classes. The live auction will feature the art of Steve Mattson, a local artist who passed away a month ago. All of the proceeds from his art will go directly to his family, said event organizers.

"Steve Mattson was a beloved local artist who ... was among the movers and shakers of the art community in the state of California," said Claudia Frances, a volunteer at the 2nd Street Gallery and Gift Shop.

The event is one of the biggest fundraisers for the California Redwoods Art Association, a nonprofit group committed to cultivating the arts in Del Norte County, especially for younger generations.

The silent auction will feature hearts, created in a variety of media, that teachers made during children's summer art classes in the California Redwoods Art Association's "Art Is the Heart of the Community" youth project.

"We will have these hearts on display throughout the whole show and people put their silent-auction bid on these hearts," said Frances. "That money goes back specifically for more art classes for kids. So, we're really excited about that one."

The Wild Rivers Community Foundation provided financial support for the association's summer art program. Proceeds from the hearts promotion will contribute to the children's programs.

Just as with the hearts, other art featured in the show will represent diverse media, including oil painting, textiles, sculpture, pottery, watercolor painting and others.

The event is named for artist Florence Keller, who passed away in the 1970's. Her husband contributed to the building fund for the cultural center on condition that her art be housed and displayed there.