

California

BEST OF THE WEST



SUMMER BREAKFAST BY KURT SOLMSSEN

Sounding Off

BAKERSFIELD.... Shoreline vistas of Puget Sound are the specialty of Washington-based painter Kurt Solmssen, who lives in the remote hamlet of Vaughn. The way that Vaughn's waterfront appears in Solmssen's paintings is often sans suburban sprawl and with its shoreline instead returned to nature, with, as art critic Gary Faigin observed, "whole clusters of houses replaced with evergreens and autumnal brush." Faigin also noted that, "Though a realist, Kurt Solmssen does not so much record what he sees as use his surroundings as a point of departure for poetic homages to waterside life, the delights of color and light, and the joys of the loaded brush." The Bakersfield Museum of Art mounts a retrospective exhibit of Solmssen's paintings and works on paper on January 18.

Solmssen's work is generally characterized as realism with an abstracted influence that evidences itself in a lack of detail. His compositions demonstrate an awareness of geometry, and his work has been compared to that of Whistler. Born in Philadelphia in 1958, Solmssen has a bachelor's degree in fine arts from the University of Pennsylvania. His work has been collected by the ExxonMobil Corporation, Federal Reserve Bank, First Fidelity Bank, and Tacoma Art Museum. Also on view at the museum are paintings and drawings by Marvin Saltzman, Bryan Mark Taylor, and Pam Panattoni.

Kurt Solmssen: Paintings and Works on Paper, 1986-2006, January 18-March 29, Bakersfield Museum of Art, 661.323.7219, www.bmoa.org

As Time Goes By

PASADENA.... The lifelong career of artist Sam Hyde Harris [1889-1977] is the focus of the show *Who Is Sam?*, opening on January 20 at the Pasadena Museum of History. Harris was >

High Flying

SANTA MONICA.... After record sales and attendance last year, this year's 12th annual Los Angeles Art Show returns to the Barker Hangar at Santa Monica Airport January 24-28. Collectors can view and purchase contemporary and historic artworks from 80 top international galleries during the show, which is put on by the Fine Art Dealers Association (FADA). Approximately 20,000 visitors are expected, with participants including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Museum of Contemporary American Art, San Diego Museum of Art, and Autry National Center. An opening-night preview gala benefiting LACMA takes place Wednesday evening, January 24. Considered one of the most prestigious annual expositions in the country, the Los Angeles Art Show also encompasses a lecture series. Participating in the lectures are Leonard and Susan Nimoy, art writer Jori Finkel, and art historian Gabriel Weisberg. *Los Angeles Art Show, January 24-28, Santa Monica Airport, 323.936.1447, www.laartshow.com*

PORTRAIT OF INEZ BY HELEN LUNDEBERG
FROM LOUIS STERN FINE ARTS



For more event information, see page 122 or southwestart.com.
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