



Tiburon Heritage & Arts **Former Laureates**

2012 - 2016

JALEH ETEMAD

“As an artist, my objective is to make art that is both revealing and accessible but also acts as a muse for the viewer. I gather my inspiration from people, books, dreams, and unexpected emotions. I paint and layer onto my canvases many symbols such as fragments of maps, letters, ancient inscriptions, photos both found and self-taken, found objects and mementos, and contemporary poetry.”

A distinguished and dedicated artist, Jaleh worked tirelessly to share her knowledge of art with the community. As her signature project in the title of Tiburon Artist Laureate, Jaleh created the wonderful, historical treasure about our local long-time residents; “I Remember When”. This book chronicles the individuals and families that have generational ties to the community, as well as deeply personal and contributory.

2009 - 2012

MARY MUSALO

A self-taught artist, Mary has the belief “There is no right or wrong – only your perception”. Mary worked with St. Hilary’s Parish “Art As Meditation” and introduced her students, mostly beginners, how to create wonderful works of art on a regular basis. Her intention was manifested in shining the light on the arts in the community through a variety of venues. She was the creator of many Town event posters, The Wine Festival, Friday Night on Main, Oktoberfest, and the Tiburon Music Festival as well as pieces that hang locally and across the country.

2001 - 2003

PROFESSOR YEH JAU “JIMMY” LIU

Mr. Liu was the first appointed Artist Laureate and it is due to this local treasure the position was created. He was a master of Chinese watercolor, and his studio, across the street from Sam's

Anchor Cafe, was a tourist curiosity that drew national and international acclaim. Every inch of surface was covered by either a brush painting by him, a testimonial letter about him, or a wall map with pushpins identifying the far-flung homes of his customers. Mr. Liu would wave away inquiries by saying "I am not interesting" and then prove himself wrong by reluctantly telling his life story in a thick Hunan accent.

Mr. Liu was born in 1910 and rose to the rank of colonel in the Chinese army during World War II. When the Japanese were in Hunan and moving west, Mr. Liu took to horseback, riding just ahead of the invaders, and leading a scorched earth campaign.

Afterward, he was recruited by Chiang Kai-shek to join four generals in a tour of Europe and the United States, to help determine the best way to rebuild China. He became a government official in Hunan province, but in 1949 was forced to flee to Taiwan with the Nationalists when the Communists took over.

In 1962, Mr. Liu was invited to teach Chinese watercolor painting at San Francisco State University. After his mandatory retirement at age 65, a benefactor set him up with studio space in Tiburon. He opened Han Syi Studio in 1967, fulfilled one 20-year lease and expected to fulfill a second one.

Mr. Liu was a charter member of both of Tiburon's Rotary Clubs.