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The 'Gamble' is paying off

Local artist enjoys her time in many mediums

By KELLIE FLANAGAN
Staff Writer

Looking for some breathing room and space to consider the mysteries of our universe?

The Cosmic Peace Art: Wonders of the Night Sky series by Carolynne Gamble is on display now at the Yosemite Gateway Art Center co-op gallery.

Ideas for the exhibit began to percolate recently when Gamble was invited to be a guest artist in a show at the Jessel Gallery in Napa Valley.

"The show was based on the theme: Peace Art," Gamble explained.

"I entered and sold my cosmic peace art. The experience ignited more images and much consideration about peace. It means many different things to different people. And I highlighted peaceful, cosmic star gazing."

Her textured, motion-filled mixed media pieces delve into the expansiveness of galaxies.

"I like the immediacy of paper collage and the visual appeal of metallic foils and paints. Also, I love the surrender and flow in the cosmic series. On the Cosmic pieces, my titles reveal my aspirations, my wishes and dreams."

Now a foothills resident, Gamble was born in a mining town and grew up in rural Idaho.

"My mother was a quilter and I watched her make quilts forever," she said, reflecting on early observations that would gently guide her later work.

The young artist moved to California for college, earning a BA in English Literature from Pepperdine University in Malibu.

She later majored in sculpture and was an assistant in her department, earning a Master of Fine Arts degree at San Francisco State.



Carolynne Gamble during Sierra Art Trails.

"Along my way in art school, I discovered a technique called 'process painting' and learned to create from intuition, not from intellect. The approach was and is a powerful foundation for abstract work."

Before moving to Oakhurst four years ago, Gamble lived in Napa Valley for more than 40 years.

"I was very active in the Napa Valley art community and had a number of solo shows."

While here in the Sierra, Gamble has taught classes through Yosemite Sierra Artists (YSA).

"I love the art community here. It is welcoming and inclusive. YSA welcomes all ages, levels of experience and mediums."

And she's currently relishing her experience at Yosemite Gateway Art Center (YGAC).

"It's so alive with talent, creativity and also inclusivity. I love the art, the music venues, the classes and art presentations. YGAC is teeming with creative talent."

The importance of place cannot be understated, but the life of an artist is not without trials.

"It's challenging to balance the right and left brain — right brain for creativity, left brain for the business side of art. And then there's the reality check."

"It is next to impossible to make a living as an artist, so most artists make it a side hustle. We are retired or have a 'regular' job. This removes the stress and anxiety around income."

Gamble is a marketing specialist and certified business adviser. Beyond her interest in cosmic peace art, she has a body of work in mandalas.

"My Mandala Art stems from my studies in Eastern religions and metaphysics," Gamble shared.

"Mandalas are an art form in Asian and American Indian cultures. They're created as prayers with specific intention and include geometry, symmetry, harmony and balance."

She said sacred geometry has been a theme in her life for years.

"The mandala art represents my search for physical, emotional and spiritual balance. Creating mandalas is meditative, centering and grounding for me."

It wasn't until Gamble participated in an art show with a quilter that she realized its connection.

"My mind exploded when I saw my mandala paintings hanging beside quilts," as she recalled her mother's expressions in fabric.

"I recognized my point of inspiration. Quilt squares are like mandalas with geometric shapes in colors and patterns. Not to mention the meditation process to create them."

These days, Gamble is motivated by some of her local contemporaries.

"I'm inspired by YSA member, Jim Morrison for his creative process and giving heart. He has generously shared some inside tricks with me."

YSA's Sandee Scott is also on Gamble's inspiration list, "for tackling and conquering so many different mediums. I love how she combines realism and abstract art while honoring Mother Nature."

And she also notes the influence of YSA member Wendy Denton, "who creates conceptual fine art photography and combines her art with activism, through powerful images and text."

Much of what Gamble gives to her creative talents is returned, multi-fold.

"Art gives me permission to



Carolynne Gamble, "Altar to Earth," mandala.

play and dream — permission to get messy, experiment and explore."

Learn more about Gamble's current exhibition and other work at www.gamblefineart.com/cosmic-peace-2026 with video design and music by Jennifer Moss and photography by Terra Susquehanna.

Yosemite Gateway Art Center is located at 40982 Highway 41 in Oakhurst. Visit www.ygac.org for more or call (559) 683-5551.



Carolynne Gamble, "Peace of Mind."



Carolynne Gamble, "Awesome Wonder 2."

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