

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pepperwood Preserve to hold Jack Stuppin Exhibition

(Santa Rosa, California) – The Sonoma County Museum and Pepperwood Preserve have joined efforts to present “Where Land Meets Art” a collection of landscape paintings by Jack Stuppin to be exhibited in the environmental art gallery at the Dwight Center for Conservation Science at Pepperwood Preserve from September 16 through November 18, 2011. The exhibit opens on September 16 with a wine reception from 4-6pm.

\$20 Sonoma County Museum Members
\$35 General Admission
RSVPs for reception- (707) 579-1500 x21
Or bodeanu@sonomacountymuseum.org

The gallery will be open for visits on Thursdays and Fridays by appointment from September 22- November 18 via events@pepperwoodpreserve.org.

The term landscape is only minimally correct when applied to Jack Stuppin’s superbly dramatic pieces that are seen in the Pepperwood Preserve show dedicated to his art. Yes, hills and mountains are depicted; trees and grass and there; rocks and ocean waves are seen in his abstractions. Certainly Jack begins *en plein air* as he establishes a foundation for a painting. But the keystone of Jack’s creative endeavor occurs in his studio in the woodlands of west Sonoma County. It is there in the cottage, at his easel surrounded with piles of paint tubes and jars of wet brushes, that he builds a particular vista on canvas. For all his accolades and wide visibility, Jack is never sure in the beginning that a painting will succeed. That is because his paintings are born, not just from natural places, rather more from Jack himself. His images are *soulsapes* which are built like sculptures. His paintings reveal not just a scene, but more the bones, the inner structure of Nature’s places and Jack Stuppin’s spiritual relationship to them.

From the days of the renowned 1870’s painter Virgil Williams to LIFE magazine photographer Hansel Mieth and now with contemporary artists in residence in every artform, Pepperwood Preserve celebrates a long history of art and creativity in Eastern Sonoma County. Using their paintbrushes, palette knives, and cameras, with their hearts open, artists help us understand more deeply our relationship with this land. With art we can have the solace of the waterfalls and the joy of the lupines in the meadows. With art, a moment of peace in the oak woodland is ours. In paintings and photos we can soar in views of grandeur over the rolling grasslands. The Gallery at Pepperwood Preserve infuses and enriches our scientific knowledge with a sense of the sacred. Pepperwood is an ecological institute dedicated to educating, engaging, and inspiring its community through science-based conservation, leading-edge research, and multidisciplinary educational programs.

Dedicated to the protection of the region's rich biodiversity represented within its 3,200 acres, Pepperwood provides unique open-space access to nature lovers, volunteers, students, and scientists from the Bay Area and beyond. The Preserve is located at 2130 Pepperwood Preserve Road, off Franz Valley Road, approximately midway between the towns of Santa Rosa and Calistoga, and adjacent to *Safari West*. To find directions and more information about Pepperwood Preserve and its programs, visit <http://www.pepperwoodpreserve.org>.

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