

# Landmarking 1960s counterculture

By Leah Barvels

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Under the magnificent rotunda that colorfully crowns the San Mateo County History Museum is an exhibit that celebrates places and moments of San Mateo County.

The stained glass ceiling and exceptional molding lay backdrop to "Landmarks, An Artist's Perspective." Work by Leah Lubin is featured in the exhibit and prized among her 11 paintings are two pieces in particular. One is a collage of Ken Kesey and the Merry Pranksters reuniting in 1999, the other is a portrait of Jerry Garcia.

"The concept behind the Jerry piece is that some people believe that when you pass away you can take on any look of yourself from any age, which is why the title, "Jerry Forever Young," is incorporated in the painting," Lubin said. "To me, this portrait represents Jerry's best look."

The look is a somewhat younger Jerry with a neatly trimmed beard, and those who show up to the museum and mention the portrait get free admission. This is something that Lubin worked out with the museum's art director so deadheads could come out and appreciate their icon.

The other prominent piece in Lubin's collection is the collage she constructed of Ken Kesey and the Merry Pranksters reuniting in La Honda in June 1999. Lubin lives in La Honda and when she found out about the reunion she

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— Artist Leah Lubin

simply went to their picnic, hung out and took pictures.

The reunion was possible through a group of British filmmakers who wanted to do a documentary, Lubin said. The "Further Bus," which Kesey used to travel the country was reconstructed and relived. One of his journeys was from La Honda, where he lived and wrote "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," to Oregon where he also spent a few years of his life.

"Because I live in La Honda I knew what was going on and when I showed up I took three or four rolls of film and cut them up," said Lubin. "I haven't shown this work yet because I needed the appropriate venue and the time had to be right. This isn't something that I could just throw in a gallery."

Although this is the first time these particular works were shown, it is not the first time Lubin has showcased her work.

Her art education began at Hampstead Art Center and Barnet



LEAH BARVELS/DAILY JOURNAL

Woodside artist Leah Lubin stands beside her portrait of Jerry Garcia titled "Jerry Forever young." Lubin has 11 pieces in a group exhibit titled "Landmarks, an Artist's Perspective," at the San Mateo County History Museum in Redwood City.

College of Art, both in London before moving on to Haifa's Rothchild Center and Bat Yam and Rehovot Art Institute in Israel.

Lubin has been featured in 39 exhibits worldwide and has won recognition from the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington D.C., as well as the Peninsula Community Foundation where she received an individual artists grant.

Other current and future projects Lubin is involved with is a ballet she wrote titled "An Artist's Dilemma and Compromise."

It is a show that was already in motion last year at Foothill Community College until budget

cuts closed down production 10 weeks into rehearsals. Lubin hopes to get the chance to present a 20-minute tape of her ballet to Helgi Tomasson, the director of the San Francisco Ballet.

"Dance and music is where my heart is, not because I can do it but because I love it," Lubin said. "It takes me to another place and you can't imagine the disappointment I felt when we got shut down. We were so far into production even a couple newspapers had stories about the ballet."

Lubin also has a collection of six celestial paintings collectively titled "Galactic Mysteries." Like her Ken Kesey collage and Jerry Garcia, portrait she is waiting for

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"Landmarks, an Artist's Perspective," will be running through March 5, and is located at the San Mateo County History Museum at 777 Hamilton Street in Redwood City. For more information on Lubin's work go to [www.leahlubin.com](http://www.leahlubin.com) or call her open studio at 851-0351.

the right venue, specifically the chance to show her work at the NASA Visitor's Center in Mountain View.