

The Grandparent Portrait Show
April 2-29, 2015
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The Grandparent Portrait Show will take place April 2-29 at the Faulkner Gallery in the Santa Barbara Public Library. This biannual exhibition, sponsored by the Student Art Fund of the Santa Barbara Art Association, features more than 150 portraits of grandparents and significant elders created in a variety of media by students in art classes taught at public junior and senior high schools in our area.

“The Grandparent Portrait Project connects students with their family roots and pride,” explains Audie Love, a retired art teacher from Dos Pueblos High School, who is the guiding force behind the Student Art Fund Committee. “Getting students to focus on the faces of their grandparents is a way of strengthening those connections, and, possibly, of inspiring the students with the hopes and aspirations that these grandparent figures have for them.”

Working under the guidance of their art teachers, young artists created over 400 portraits in media ranging from paintings in watercolors or acrylics, drawings in ink, pencil, or charcoal, photography, collages, mixed media, and clay sculptures for consideration.

Approximately 150 visual art works were selected for display. As Love points out: “Establishing potential prizes for their art work and the chance to have it publicly exhibited in a place where their family and friends can visit with them are the incentives that engage them in the project.”

Awards of Excellence for eleven outstanding entries will be announced at the Family Reception on Friday, April 10. These awards are designated through a selection process that includes SAF Committee members—many are retired art teachers—and a professional juror. The awards are made possible by: American Riviera Bank, the DeSha Family, Thomas and Willa Mann, Hilary Peattie, the Santa Barbara Art Association, Channel City Camera Club, Gene Hill, Gwen Taylor Dawson, Village Properties, The Aquiesse Company, and Worldview Pictures.

The proud grandparents of one of the award winners in the 2013 Grandparents Show commented, “It was so gratifying to know that our granddaughter investigated our lives and to see how creatively she

expressed what she learned.”

The Grandparent Portrait Show is funded in part by the American Riviera Bank, the Santa Barbara Foundation, Village Properties, and the Community Arts Grant Program using funds provided by the City of Santa Barbara in partnership with the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission, and the Santa Barbara Art Association Student Art Fund.

The Grandparents Show is one of several ways that the Santa Barbara Art Association collaborates with local institutions and groups to support the arts in the lives of area students. The Student Art Fund was founded in 2006 specifically to provide support, opportunity and encouragement to young visual artists and their art teachers in area public junior high and high schools.

A rich trove of images and information on *all* of the student exhibitions sponsored by the Student Art Fund is available at www.studentartfund.org. For more information on the Santa Barbara Art Association, please see: <http://sbartassoc.org>.

The Grandparent Show is on view April 2 to 29 during regular Library hours: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.