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'Precision Beauty' at Moraga Art Gallery

By Sophie Braccini



Painting by Karen Kramer; jewelry by Kuniko Kay Nitta Photos Sophie Braccini

The title of the new exhibition at the Moraga Art Gallery expresses acutely what the two featured artists are all about: precise and finely crafted art, where the beauty emerges seamlessly through the enormous amount of work needed for the art's completion. Karen Kramer's watercolor paintings and Kuniko Kay Nitta's jewelry are on display now for all to enjoy as part of the "Precision Beauty" exhibit through Aug. 11.

Upon entering the gallery, one is drawn to the left wall of the space where Kramer's paintings hang. Her most recent work is on display, always inspired by nature, but also by movement. The colors, the shapes, draw the viewer into Kramer's universe. It is a sensual world where the softness enralls the spectator.

In the gallery, the talented painter offers some small pieces that are incredibly reasonably priced and some larger paintings as well. Kramer said that she sees endless contradictions within the same landscape: light/dark; arid/wet; and living/dying; adding that she passionately examines this harmonious paradox and is transfixed by the complex tapestry of nature and its constant flux.

the artist before being embedded in remarkable necklaces and earrings.

The artist says that it is also nature that inspires her, especially that of Japan where she was raised. The technique she uses creates the cabochon-style gems, meaning polished instead of faceted. Nitta explains that she works the stones with five different grinders for hours before the stones ultimately reveal their potential immense beauty. Looking at each gem can be quite intoxicating; the glance loses itself in the natural intricacy of the stones.

Nitta creates necklaces with the stones she polishes by setting them using different techniques including very thin metal strands that lightly and elegantly hold the stone. The final result is stunning.

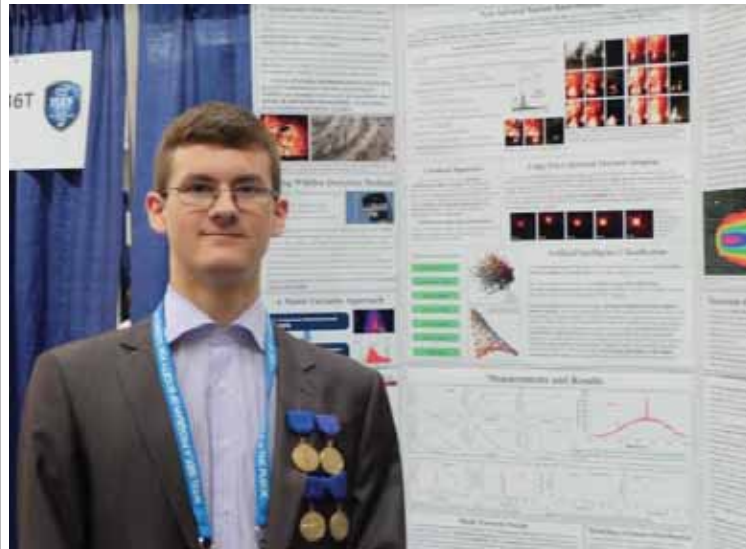
The Moraga gallery also features several of its other members. Pam Murray presents some of her new very unique collages, Chanda Beck her ceramics, and Sandra Berkson her whimsical abstract paintings, among other interesting art.

The gallery is located at 522 Center St. in the Rheem Shopping Center and is open Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, visit moragaartgallery.com.



Campo senior recognized at International Science and Engineering Fair

Submitted by Roxanna Jackman



Vasily Tremsin

Photo provided

Campolindo High School senior Vasily Tremsin has been creating inventions to create solutions to real world problems for the past four years. His projects have won a variety of awards at the county and state levels and qualified to compete at the international level.

As a freshman, Tremsin created a low-cost instrument that measures the direction of incoming sound to significantly improve spatial awareness for the deaf. His sophomore year he invented a mo-

bile-friendly device to monitor sunscreen effectiveness. He provided evidence to show how his device was capable of potentially preventing millions of skin cancer cases with unprecedented affordable early detection capabilities. During his junior year, Tremsin invented an affordable system for measuring soil moisture to significantly improve the efficiency of agricultural irrigation, possibly saving millions of gallons of water all around the globe.

This year, Tremsin's design for

a "Multivariable Early-Warning System for Low-Cost Prevention of Wildfire Proliferation" was tremendously successful. At the International Science and Engineering Fair, this project was chosen to be among the top 22 projects out of 1,791 finalists that qualified from their own science fairs in 81 countries, regions and territories. He won the Best of Category Award for Earth and Environmental Sciences, first place grand award, plus four different special awards: ASU Rob and Melani Walton Sustainability Solutions Initiatives, U.S. Agency for International Development, China Association for Science and Technology, and the American Meteorological Society. Tremsin was awarded cash prizes totaling more than \$12,000 and earned \$1,000 grants for Campolindo and the Contra Costa County science fair. Additionally, NASA will name a new asteroid in his honor.

The staff at Campolindo are looking forward to watching the wonderful inventions and solutions that this talented young man creates as he continues on to study computer science and physics.