

'Midsummer Synergies' comes to Moraga July 14



"Renewal" Photo polymer etching, Danguole Rita Kuolas

Submitted by George Ehrenhaft

The Moraga Art Gallery presents a new summertime show, "Midsummer Synergies," open from July 14 to Sept. 19, featuring the vibrant creations of two Lafayette artists: ceramicist Donna Arganbright and Dan-

guole Rita Kuolas, a printmaker and etching specialist. Along with a diverse array of appealing mugs, trays, bowls and plates, the Arganbright collection includes unique "attitude figures" – vases, each one different and each one rendered as a posturing human figure with hands on hips and clothed in a fresh, bright-hued



"Emergence" by Danguole Rita Kuolas

glaze. All of these are meant to be taken home, used and loved.

Kuolas attributes her etching expertise to a lifelong fascination with the drawn line that has evolved into environmental concerns, as evinced not only by renderings of plant life, but also replacing the usual solvents and acids in her work with water-



Donna Arganbright's ceramics

soluble inks, non-toxic etching processes and by recycling scraps of etching paper into new sheets. The images in the exhibit show the artist branching out from her usual abstracted imagery into more naturalistic representations. Kuolas will demystify printmaking by doing a free public demonstration on Sunday, Aug. 8 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the gallery.

The show also includes arresting papier-maché sculptures by guest artist Francine Garcia and



Photos provided

scores of works by the gallery's roster of sculptors, painters, jewelers, photographers, ceramicists, woodworkers, printmakers, and more.

The gallery is located in the Rheem Shopping Center at 432 Center Street, Moraga, and is open Wednesday to Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.moragaart-gallery.com or call (925) 376-5407.

'The Silent Revolution' ('Das schweigende Klassenzimmer'): coming of age during the Cold War



By Sophie Braccini

Films based on true stories have a special way to grip you. "Silent Revolution" is one of these. Set in East Germany in 1956 during the Cold War, it follows a class of graduating high school students confronted with decisions that will define who they are and change their lives in ways they could not have foreseen.

The scene: 1956, in East-Berlin, before the Berlin Wall was erected. Thanks to a clandestine western radio station, a high school student, Kurt Wächter, discovers that the Hungarian anti-Soviet uprising

in Budapest has been repressed in bloodshed by Soviet tanks. With his best friends Theo Lemke and Lena, he convinces his classmates to observe a minute's silence at the beginning of their history class to pay tribute to the insurgents. This small but strong act infuriates their teacher who alerts the Communist party's chain of command. A relentless and efficient emissary from the minister of education arrives to find out who did what and apply punishment with resounding consequences, if necessary.

The movie shows how pressure is exerted on the students to pit one against the other and drive them to betray

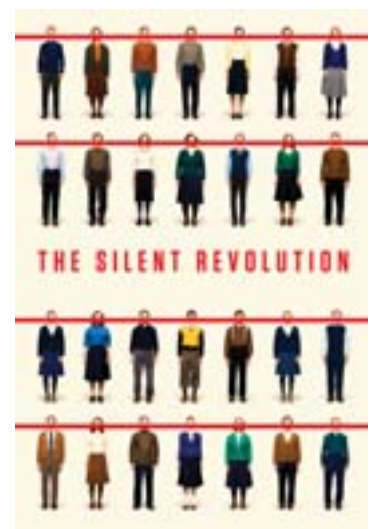
their classmates. In post-war Germany, communists that have vanquished the Nazis are in power, but their methods are that of any type of dictatorship. The power system is built on fear, absolute obedience, conformity to the dogma of the day, and any deviancy, may it be minuscule, needs to be crushed.

The youths are caught in the net of their idealism, their friendships, but they also have family ties and histories that mark their individual destinies, whether they want it or not. Will one betray their friends to be able to survive? What does it mean to be brave? Can one risk their whole future to preserve their dignity? These young adults are confronted with these difficult questions when they have just grown beyond the innocence of childhood, and still retain some of its naivety. It is a difficult moment that tests and makes the adults they will become.

Kurt and Theo (Tom Gramenz, Leonard Scheicher, charming and excellent young actors) are the leaders of this

silent revolution. They have been able to go from time to time to West Berlin and have experienced a freer society, which has probably given them the courage to take more risks. There is also Lena (Lena Klenke), who is their smart, idealist and brave friend who pushes for an uncompromising defense strategy. The whole class is galvanized by the three, though the threats and the risks start to divide the students between the unbending ones and those who would rather cave to avoid punishment. They nonetheless continue to fight for each other, and do it with the ardor of youth. The movie is led by director Lars Kraume with that same dynamism. It is riveting and dramatic, as well as very emotional.

Kraume adapted the book written by one of the former high schoolers that was published in 2006, 50 years after the fact. The fast rhythm is efficient, and the direction is solid though not terribly creative. The scenario however illustrates brilliantly themes such as sacrifice, treason, redemption,



Images provided

and the power of a unified group.

As it is often the case for movies written after real life events, it is interesting to stay after the credits to see pictures of the real-life heroes and discover what has become of them.

The German film is brought to Orinda by the Lamorinda-based nonprofit the International Film Showcase. It will open at the Orinda Theatre July 16 for three days and nine screenings.

The number of tickets is limited. For reservations, go to: <https://www.orindamovies.com/location/1207/Orinda-Theater/2021-07-16>

Looking Good in Lamorinda Summer jewelry splurges, and vintage events



Photo Morrison's Jewelers

Locketts by Monica Rich Kosann available at Morrison's Jewelers in Orinda

By Moya Stone

When we were on lockdown last year, I never stopped wearing jewelry. In fact, I dug out some long forgotten pieces. Every day I'd don something different, something I hadn't worn in ages. Wearing jewelry while staying home lifted my spirits.

It seems I wasn't the only one getting excited about jewelry. I've been reading in fashion magazines that since the pandemic, interest and priorities have shifted and there's a desire now to celebrate life and important milestones with a piece of jewelry. Even designer Marc Jacobs finally bought the Mikimoto pearl necklace he'd

been wanting for years. He said in an interview for Harper's Bazaar that wearing these pearls brings him joy.

Like Jacobs, people are no longer waiting to make big jewelry splurges. "People are commemorating their occasions in a different way," says Christine Berryhill from Morrison's Jewelers in Orinda, a family-owned business that specializes in custom design jewelry pieces. Berryhill, who works in the shop with her husband, David, says that instead of buying experiences people are buying jewelry. What's popular now is both small and larger pieces, colored stones, yellow gold, and pearls. Berryhill says, "This season is all about layering."

Necklaces are "neck messes" and we are stacking rings and bracelets, mixing small with large. "Everything is in," she says. Including locketts. A favorite in the Victorian era, we haven't seen a locket trend in a long time but jewelry designer Monica Rich Kosann has updated the sentimental pendants with sleek designs for a modern sensibility. Morrison's carries Kosann locketts along with other designer lines.

Lamorinda is lucky to have an array of jewelry stores. In addition to Morrison's there's Ware Designs, CG Designs and Solano Jewelers in Lafayette and Moraga Jewelers in Rheem. Berryhill says that residents in Lamorinda are aware of the importance of shopping locally and points out that when we support one shop we're also supporting the small businesses that they work with, such as engravers and repair.

For some local summer fun, slip on that new jewelry and head out to Shadelands Ranch Museum in Walnut Creek. The Walnut Creek Historical Society's next event, Summer Market & Barn Sale, is set for Sunday, Aug. 15 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and it promises to be a great day of outdoor shopping and eating. Jackie Byrd, Walnut Creek Historical Society Office/ Events Manager says there will be 40 or so vendors selling handmade crafts, jewelry, and antique and vintage items. Additionally, as a fundraiser, the museum will be selling some vintage items



Photo courtesy Walnut Creek Historical Society

from their archives. There will also be a few informational booths. Did someone say food trucks? At least two food vendors have signed up, Golden Gate Gyros and Cousins Maine Lobster. Plus, the Shadelands house will be open for tours. Are you a vintage dealer? A crafter? Vendor applications are still being accepted. For more information visit: www.wchistory.org.

Something else happening at Shadelands Ranch Museum is Fashion Through the Years, a vintage clothing exhibition on now through Aug. 31. Displayed throughout the museum are fashions from as far back as the 19th century, many pieces donated to the museum. One standout ensemble is a World War II nurse's uniform. The museum is open Wednesdays and Sundays from 1 to 4

p.m., but check the website for possible special event closures. Masks are required.

Summertime is reading time and I recommend the memoir "Dressed in Dreams: A Black Girl's Love Letter to the Power of Fashion" by Tanisha C. Ford (St. Martin's Press). In Dreams, Ford, an associate professor of African Studies, discusses the important role fashion played in her African American community of Fort Wayne, Indiana. From her parent's colorful Dashiki shirts to baggy jeans to the hoodie to knee-high boots, she shares her childhood story and how fashion influenced her life.

Stay cool out there and go forth in style!

Moya Stone is a fashion blogger at www.overdressedforlife.com.