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Ranches & Rolling Hills Annual Landscape Art Show & Sale

Artists Paint to Preserve Their Inspiration & Save Farmland

Ranches & Rolling Hills, an annual sale of western Marin County landscape art to benefit Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT), will take place on Saturday, May 15, and Sunday, May 16, 2010, at the Druid's Hall on the Village Square in Nicasio, California.

Proceeds from art sales benefit MALT's farmland preservation program, which provides a conservation alternative to the sale or subdivision of Marin farmland. Some of the Bay Area's most highly acclaimed dairy products and organic crops, including Cowgirl Creamery cheeses, Straus Family Creamery dairy products, and Point Reyes Original Blue Cheese are produced from farmland protected by MALT conservation easements.

The show features more than 250 images of natural and working landscapes, including many of the family farms that have been permanently protected by MALT. The works of 43 outstanding artists are included in this significant West Coast exhibit.

Ranches & Rolling Hills art also depicts other private farmlands as well as historic landscapes located within Point Reyes National Seashore—all of them reflecting the human and natural history that make West Marin such a special and beloved place.

Curator Michael Whitt of Point Reyes Station co-founded *Ranches & Rolling Hills* in 1998, along with the late Ray Strong, dean of Santa Barbara's highly respected Oak Group of painters.

Artists participating in the 2010 show include Marin painters **Martha Borge**, **Willard Dixon**, **Timothy Horn**, **Susan Hall**, **Wendy Schwartz**, and **Zee Zee Mott**, along with Santa Barbara artists **Arturo Tello**, **Sarah Vedder**, **Meredith Brooks Abbott**, **Whitney Brooks Abbott**, and other members of the Oak Group.

Ranches & Rolling Hills was celebrated in a 2008 book of the same name which showcases the art and provides a historical record of protected farmland in Marin. The book can be purchased at Bay Area bookstores or at www.malt.org.

The *Ranches & Rolling Hills* Landscape Art Show & Sale is open to the public at no charge from 2–5 P.M. on Saturday, May 15, and from 10 A.M.–4 P.M. on Sunday, May 16. For information, visit www.malt.org or phone 415-663-1158.

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Marin Agricultural Land Trust is a member-supported, nonprofit organization created in 1980 by a coalition of ranchers and environmentalists to permanently preserve Marin County farmland. Some of the Bay Area's most highly acclaimed dairy products and organic crops are produced on farmland protected by MALT conservation easements, which total more than 41,500 acres on 64 family farms and ranches.

For more information, including artist interview requests, contact Elisabeth Ptak at 415-663-1158, ext. 302, or eptak@malt.org.

2009 Participating Artists

Meredith Brooks Abbott
Whitney Brooks Abbott
Krystal Allen
Martha Borge
Ralph Borge
Chris Chapman
Russell Chatham
John Comer
Dan Cooper
Christin Coy
Willard Dixon
Michael Drury
Michael Enriquez
Jon Francis
Kristen Garneau
Karen Gruszka
Susan Hall
Dana Hooper
Timothy Horn
John Iwerks
Larry Iwerks
Jeanette Le Grue
Richard Lindenberg
Manny Lopez
Rick Lyttle
Dan McCormick
Zee Zee Mott
Davis Perkins
Jeri Quinn
Ane Carla Rovetta
Rick Schloss
Wendy Schwartz
Suzanne Siminger
Gary Smith
Skip Smith
J. Thomas Soltesz
Nancy Stein
Arturo Tello
Millicent Tomkins
Thomas Van Stein
Sarah Vedder
Patricia Wallis
Ward Walkup

Thomas Wood