What is Art?

Oh sure...that oil painting on the wall above your sofa is called “art.” But can a car covered in tin foil and aluminum ductwork also be called a work of art? Can a flamethrower in the shape of a giant snail be art? Can a gown made out of colored plastic wrap be art? Anne & Mark’s Art Party is the perfect place to explore the answers.

With over 300 artists and performers, 34,000 square feet of indoor gallery space, a sculpture garden, a Jazz Club, a Spoken Word Lounge, dancers, art cars, food trucks, fire displays, fashion shows, and film screenings, Anne & Mark’s Art Party is the place to find fine art, fire art, and everything you can imagine in between.

Producers Anne Sconberg and Mark Henderson started the Art Party in 2007 in their San Jose house as a “one-night stand for the arts” and it has since exploded into a multi-disciplinary arts extravaganza supported, in part, by a Cultural Affairs grant from the City of San Jose.

Ken Matsumoto of ArtObjectGallery says, “Art Party is arguably the largest, most diverse art event the Bay Area has ever seen.” The Mercury News describes it as “Mad Max meets Moulin Rouge, freak show meets Fellini.” Others refer to it as “Burning Man in a tux.” But you are just as likely to see attendees dressed in whimsical costumes as in formal wear.

However you slice it, or describe it, this week-long event invites you to experience things differently. Pablo Picasso once said, “We all know that art is not truth. Art is a lie that makes us realize truth.”

One thing is certainly true; this party is loads of fun! Held Sept 24-Oct 1 at the Santa Clara Co. Fairgrounds, 344 Tully Rd, San Jose. Visit www.artpartysj.com for more information.
Dining With Bella!

Recently we found ourselves in Pacific Grove and Carmel for the weekend. We experienced three restaurants that are worth your interest.

The first was Portabella on Ocean Avenue in Carmel. Recently the former owner retired there has been a management change. The menu is somewhat different, yet just as delicious as one would expect from this restaurant. Their cuisine features beautiful specialties from France, Italy and Spain. The dishes are rich in color and flavor. PortaBella is picturesque: awarded First Prize for Beautiful Flowerscaping from the Carmel Garden Club. The ambience is stylish and romantic, the setting historic. One of our favorite parts of this restaurant is the back covered patio. They welcome dogs in this area and so we were able to bring ours to lunch with us. It’s a relaxing atmosphere with a good wine menu.

The following day we enjoyed a wonderful lunch at Grasing’s Restaurant. This award winning restaurant is brought to you by chefs Kurt Grasing and Narsal David. They are specializing in locally grown ingredients paired with central coast wines. We took a spot on the patio in the mid-afternoon and were surprised when they produced a dog bed for our dog along with a water bowl. We ate off the luncheon appetizer menu. We ordered the charcuterie plate and the four onion tart. They were delicious and more than enough food to satisfy our needs. We have been here for dinner, but found it crowded and harried as well as expensive, but for lunch it was a laid back experience and the staff were both attentive and very welcoming. I think we’ll make lunch at Grasing’s part of our regular itinerary when in Carmel.

Finally, we were invited to dinner in Pacific Grove to a wonderful restaurant called Fandango’s. They feature Mediterranean and European cuisine and are family owned and operated. One of the interesting things about this restaurant is that it is located in a former home. Thus, each time you come you are likely to be seated in a different room. We found it charming. The food was delicious and the wine list was impressive.

Odysseo takes the audience on an epic journey to some of nature’s greatest wonders. This awe-inspiring ode to horse and man is an absolute feast for the eyes that succeeds in delivering soulful and stunning performances. Prepare to be wowed! Performances begin Sept. 14, 2016.

Venue: Under the White Big Top
Address: Hwy 87 at Julian Street exit
San Jose, CA 95131

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Here are just a few of the events going on this month, selected by discover silicon valley magazine. For a complete calendar, visit www.dineshopplay.com/events_main

an ode to bacon... Now in its tasty fourth year, the Bacon Festival of America (Sept 3-4) includes savory treats and delectable sweets, unusual bacon-themed merchandise, local craft beer tastings and vendors. Rounding out the event is live music, a pro wrestling ring, and a fireworks display. 12-7pm. (San Jose: Plaza de Cesar Chavez, 194 S. Market St.; 408/800-6825; sjtaco.com)

an epic theatrical experience... Making its South Bay debut following a wildly successful run in San Francisco, odysseo (Sept 14-Oct 2) is Cavalia’s latest theatrical production that expands the definition of performance into an epic experience by marrying the equestrian arts, stage arts and high-tech theatrical effects at never-before-seen levels. Tues, 8pm; Wed, 7, 7:30 or 8pm; Thurs-Fri, 7:30 or 8pm; Sat, 2 & 8pm; Sun, 2pm. (San Jose: The Big White Top, Hwy. 87 at Coleman Ave.; 866/999-8111; cavalia.net)

back in time... A vibrant recreation of a Renaissance-era harvest fair, the annual Northern California Renaissance Fair (weekends, Sept 17-Oct 16) takes you back in time with hundreds of costumed performers and strolling musicians, full-contact jousting, sword fighting and games of skill tournaments. Wander through an authentic marketplace to browse artisanal wares, feast on a turkey leg, try your hand at axe throwing or archery, or sit back and enjoy the Celtic Rock Concert Series, held Saturdays at 6pm. 10am-6pm. (Hollister: Casa de Fruta, 10031 Pacheco Pass Hwy.; 408/847-FAIR)

NEw phantom thrills again... Cameron Mackintosh’s spectacular new production of The Phantom of the Opera (Sept 15-Oct 2) is thrilling audiences and critics alike all over again with newly reinvented staging and stunning scenic design, as well as exciting special effects and amazing costumes. It also features a thrilling score performed by a cast and orchestra of 52, making this one of the largest productions on tour in North America. Tues-Thurs, 7:30pm; Fri-Sat, 2 and/or 8pm; Sun, 1 & 8:30pm. (San Jose: Center for the Performing Arts, 255 Almaden Blvd.; 800/982-ARTS)

a quintesessentially italian opera... Opera San Jose presents Donizetti’s Lucia di Lammermoor (Sept 10-25), who drew inspiration for his opera from Sir Walter Scott’s The Bride of Lammermoor, expertly combining the epic story with a memorable score. An opera that confirmed the careers of Callas, Sutherland and Sills, Lucia is quintessentially Italian in its ardo, brilliance and dramatic intensity. Sung in Italian with English supertitles. Thurs-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 3pm. (San Jose: California Theatre, 345 S. 1st St.; 408/437-4450)

An uplifting celebration of andrew lippa... Reprising its hit run in London, The Life of the Party (thru Sept 18) is a spectacular musical celebrates the songs of Tony Award-nominated composer Andrew Lippa. Starring the composer himself and friends, this steamy, humorous and uplifting musical experience includes a collection of his most tantalizing hits. Tues, 7:30pm; Wed, 2 and/or 7:30pm; Thurs-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 2 and/or 8pm; Sun, 2 and/or 7pm. (Mountain View: Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St.; theatreworks.org)

for art enthusiasts... Enjoy a unique opportunity to view and purchase artwork by rising stars and celebrated artists at the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art’s Connect & Collect: 36th Annual Art Exhibition and Auction (Sept 24-Oct 22). A variety of works on display reflect the scope of the art world’s vibrant and eclectic styles and interests. Free curator-led tours of the exhibitions can be reserved by calling 408/283-8155. Tues-Fri, 10-5; Sat, 12-5. (San Jose: 560 S. First St.; 408/283-8155)

Karen Gastaldo
Calendar Editor
Discover Magazine
www.dineshopplay.com

Safe passage: As daylight hours get shorter during the fall and winter, Groundwerx ambassadors want to remind downtown employees and residents’ that they are available for after-dark escort services from their building’s to their vehicles. In 2015, ambassadors helped more than 300 people to their cars. Use the Groundwerx app to reserve an escort to call 408.287.1520 for more urgent assistance seven days a week, until 8pm Sunday-Thursdays and 10:30pm Friday and Saturday.
Explore

Things to Do This Summer At Filoli Estate

By BayArea.com team

These days we’re more accustomed to the smell of the street or the babble of crowds than the creak of hilltop pines in the wind, the caress of seaweed on our ankles or the smell of wildfire on a breeze. A break to nature is refreshing and energizing, but our abilities to understand what’s around us has faded. Lace lichen drooping from a tree is a cherished sight when you live surrounded by concrete and asphalt, but we’ve lost a sense of what it can tell us — for example, the presence of lace lichen indicates low air pollution.

We’ve all been hiking and seen things that the immortal Lenny Pepperbottom would call “neat” — ladybugs clustering by the thousands, matted moss on the underside of a tree, birds playing in pairs — and thought “I wonder why they do that?” We ponder, exchange theories, maybe make a mental note to Google it later and move on.

BayArea.com recently went to Woodside’s Filoli Estate, the only intact country estate in Northern California and just fifteen minutes’ drive from Redwood City. The Ohlone people once lived in these hills, forming a trading post between populations who lived on the coast and by the ocean. The estate was built in 1915 by a mining millionaire and his wife, and includes a sprawling mansion, sumptuous formal gardens and several hundred acres of woodland. Successive families expanded the gardens during the next sixty years or so and eventually, in the 1970’s, turned the estate over to the National Trust for Historic Preservation.
Sip & Stroll to Benefit Junior League of San Jose’s Little Black Dress Initiative
September 21, 6p.m.-9p.m.
Santana Row & The Junior League of San Jose invite you to join us for a sip & fashion stroll to benefit The Little Black Dress initiative on Wednesday, September 21st from 6pm-9pm. Enjoy wine tastings from Santa Cruz Mountain Wineries and enjoy light bites from Santana Row restaurants. The event will raise funds and increase awareness of poverty in Silicon Valley and its effects on women. We invite you to Santana Row in your “Little Black Dress” for an evening of fashion, fun and sips. Your $40 ticket includes wine tastings & treats inside of Santana Row shops.

Tickets are available for purchase now online at www.SantanaRow.com or for cash only inside of the Santana Row Concierge.

Mehregan Persian Fall Equinox Celebration
September 22, 6p.m.-9p.m.
Santana Row will host a celebration in partnership with the Iranian Federated Women’s Club on September 22nd in celebration of the fall equinox. Enjoy live music and performances on the stage in Park Valencia. Mehregan is an ancient festival of Persian origin and has been celebrated for more than 3,000 years as it marks the first day of fall! This event is free and open to the public.

Farewell to Summer at Cielo
September 29th, 6:30p.m.-8:30p.m.
Bid summer adieu in style at Cielo on September 29th! Enjoy small bites paired with craft brews from FortPoint Brewery. Tickets are $25 per person. This event is for guests ages 21 years and over only, for reservations call 408.423.5405.

Live Weekend Entertainment
Friday evenings beginning at 5p.m.
Saturday’s beginning at 12p.m.
Sunday’s beginning at 12p.m.

Live entertainment can be found in the Oak Tree Lounge (in front of Pinkberry or Santana Row Park (near the large chess board). Live entertainment is subject to change, and weather permitted. For a complete list of weekend entertainment available, contact the Santana Row Concierge Center at 408.551.4611.

Fall Fashion Show to Benefit St. Martin’s of Tours School
September 24th, 3pm
Santana Row will host a fashion show to benefit St. Martin’s of Tours School, which will take place in Santana Row Park on Saturday, September 24th. Students, teachers and parents will walk the runway wearing fashion-forward looks for fall. Enjoy a pre-party before the show with wine, champagne and light hors d’oeuvres, seating during the runway show and post-show parties inside of Santana Row shops & restaurants. Tickets are $50 per person and are available for purchase at www.SantanaRow.com.

SANTANA ROW CONCIERGE
377 Santana Row
San Jose, CA 95128
Located in the Via between Left Bank Brasserie and Sino restaurant inside the parking garage.
WWW.SANTANAROW.COM
The ability to recognize conflict, understand the nature of conflict, and to be able to bring swift and just resolution to conflict will serve you well as a leader - the inability to do so may well be your downfall. Here are some principles and suggestions on how to approach confrontational issues, and how to respond to emotionally-charged situations:

Don’t Blow-up or Clam-up: Anger is not bad; it’s what you do with it that is right or wrong. Anger just means that you are not happy with a situation. In your opinion, there is something that is not right, and it needs to be addressed. There are two negative reactions stemming from anger that shut down the communication, and thus hinder a resolution to the problem; blowing up and clamming up. When people yell and raise their voice, it shuts down the communication. No one listens to a hot head, and no one likes to be yelled at, or criticized. There is another response to anger that cuts off the communication as well clamming up. When a person sulks, or holds grudges, or just refuses to talk, then the problem does not get addressed properly. Both blowing up and clamming up cut off the communication. Hence, you need to speak your mind clearly, but with kindness and gentleness, and in consideration of the other person’s feelings.

Move to a private setting: Most people do not want an audience when discussing a controversial issue that has upset them. Go somewhere where you don’t have the distraction and concern of uninvolved parties.

Diffuse emotion by acting, not reacting: There is no good reason to respond to an upset person with an angry and stressed state-of-mind. It takes two people to argue, and arguments cannot solve problems. On the contrary, arguments drive people farther apart. You need to calm down and be in control of your emotions before working on a problem. Thank them for bringing the situation to your attention. You can’t fix what you don’t know about. One of the best ways to diffuse anger from another person is to listen to them. Much anger and frustration stems from people feeling misunderstood, ignored, or not cared for. Seek first to understand, and only then to be understood. Get a complete understanding of the issue from the other person’s viewpoint, and then repeat that understanding back to them in your own words. Once you have restated their perspective in your own words, ask them if you have a correct understanding of their viewpoint. Continue in that manner until you have a clear understanding of their viewpoint that you can clearly state. Ask them to do the same, by listening to you and then restating what you have said in their own words.

Attack the problem, not the person: Once you have a clear understanding of the problem, look for areas of agreement before addressing the differences. Then you will have a basis to find solutions and resolutions where you differ. Often, just listening to and understanding each other will resolve issues. Invite the other party to help you find a superior solution. Look for win/win resolutions. Find out clearly what the other person wants in the situation, and what would satisfy them. Also clearly state what you want. Then work together to find a mutually satisfactory solution. There are always many ways to solve a problem. Innovate. Be creative. Think outside the box. If necessary, find an outside mediator that you both trust to facilitate the communication and a solution.

Joe Siecinski: joe@joskiinternational.com
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The organizers may film and photograph the event. These materials will be used online and offline to promote Silicon Valley Concierge Association and to advertise future events. By attending the event you agree to appear in such films and photographs.

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Michael Mulhern  
(membership@siliconvalleyconcierge.com)

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