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Pledges are due by August 22 to meet print deadlines.

History Is Now features selections from the Focus on the Masters Portrait Series by FOTM Founder Donna Granata. This unique photographic exhibition captures more than likenesses; her lens reaches to the soul of each artist. From the cutting-edge work of young Ojai artist Cassandra C. Jones to the emotionally charged abstracts of revered master artist Gerd Koch, these portraits vividly demonstrate the depth and breadth of Ventura County's arts community. A select number of original artworks by the documented artists will also be on display.

On Sunday, October 12, in the Janet and Ray Scherr Forum Theater, Ms. Granata, much admired for her penetrating interviews of artists, will herself be the object of interest as Mary Galbraith, FOTM staff member, visits with her. Rarely interviewed, Ms. Granata will discuss her own development as an artist and historian, and the growth of Focus on the Masters, drawing on her many friendships with artists in our community. "The lives and works of Ventura County artists have great relevance to all of us, young and old, artists and non-artist. Artists teach us to see the world with refreshed vision, they force us to ask questions about society, they console us and even enrage us. But, above all, they engage us and remind us of our own role in the world," comments Ms. Granata. A catalog accompanies the exhibit and will be available for signing following the at the October 12 interview.

Donna Granata will be conducting personal tours of the exhibition by appointment with priority given to youth groups. To book a tour, email preferred time and dates to FOTM at Support@FocusOnTheMasters.com. To learn more about FOTM log onto www.FocusOnTheMasters.com or call 805.653.2501.