

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**11/5/09 PHOTOGRAPHS AVAILABLE**

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***Women Wall to Wall II***  
***Recent portraits of accomplished women artists***  
***by Focus on the Masters founder Donna Granata***

**Fox Fine Jewelry**  
210 East Main Street, Ventura

November 12, 2009 - January 18, 2010

**Artists' reception Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 6 to 9 pm**

***Women Wall to Wall II***, featuring photographic portraits from Donna Granata's Focus on the Masters Series, will be on display at Fox Fine Jewelry 210 E. Main St., Ventura November 12, 2009 through January 18, 2010 with an **artist's reception Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 6 to 9 pm**. The public is welcome.

During the run of the exhibition 10% of jewelry sales will be contributed by Fox Fine Jewelers and will be matched by a generous FOTM supporter to benefit FOTM programming. You must mention FOTM at the time of sale. Some restrictions apply\*.

**On December 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 9 p.m.** Fox Fine Jewelry will host a special holiday fundraising event, **Creative Explorations in Jewelry Design**. The festive event will feature exquisite wine by artist and winemaker Bruce Freeman and refreshments by Aloha Steakhouse. Each guest will have the opportunity to join in a conversation between Donna Granata and Master Jeweler and Certified Gemologist George Fox and venture behind the scenes to look at the art of jewelry making. In addition, each guest will have the opportunity to go home with an original piece of art donated by one of the FOTM Artists. \$20 FOTM members, \$30 non-members. Pre-sold tickets are required - space is limited. To purchase tickets online [click here](#) or call 805.653.2501.

This exhibition will leave the viewer with a lasting memory of women artists who are often overlooked in art history. The exhibition features 14 of the most recent portraits incorporated in the FOTM series including;

- **[Cassandra C. Jones](#)** - a cutting edge artist who finds paradox and contradiction in the world around her. Utilizing thousands of snapshots found in the public domain, she groups and manipulates them until completely new images are formed. Her work encourages us to understand our place in the world.
- **[Debra McKillop](#)** - Debra has not limited herself to one medium but constantly employs varying materials, always filtering the world around her through an artist's eye, bringing a unique sensibility to her work. Her work is characterized by a quiet intensity and subtle textures, each piece demanding close scrutiny.
- **[Gail Pidduck](#)** - Gail has, with paint and the eye of a discerning artist, created stunning tableaux of farm workers in the Santa Clara Valley. Carmen Ramirez, a collector, says of

Gail that she "illuminates the lives of people who are many times invisible to the rest of us."

- [Tesi Sanchez-Halpert](#) - Tesi's art gave her the courage to recover from a debilitating stroke in February 2004. Working with metal the artist welds unlikely materials into charming, whimsical sculptures that delight the eye. She unabashedly creates "feel good art to spread the joy I feel for life itself."
- [Susan Stinsmuehlen-Amend](#) - Susan is an artist whose "canvas" is often glass. A long-time collector of her work states: "She does things from the heart, things she thinks are important but not necessarily in vogue at the time." Her inspiration comes from many sources, both mundane and elegant.
- [Leslie Thompson](#) - A self-described "American potter," her work is a tribute to the Pueblo cultures of the American Southwest, a place to which she feels strongly connected. Her patterns are frequently inspired by traditional women's crafts such as quilting. She is known for creating optical illusions and vibration effects within her work.
- [Linda Vallejo](#) -- painter, sculptor and lecturer - explores the relationship between man and nature, technology and the environment. Working in mixed-media, she draws on Native American traditions of respect for the earth and Latino cultural heritage. She is an advocate for issues on race, gender equity and the business of art.

The new portraits in the exhibit were made possible in part by a [2009 Artist in Community Partnership](#) grant awarded to Granata by the Ventura County Arts Council. The grant program is part of the ArtsLIVE in Ventura County initiative; a collaboration between the Ventura County Community Foundation and the Ventura County Arts Council, funded by The James Irvine Foundation. Additionally the exhibit and fundraising endeavor is a collaborative effort featuring contributions from [Pacific Western Bank](#) (formally Affinity Bank), [Fox Fine Jewelry](#), Peterson Graphics, [Aloha Steakhouse](#), Dr. Norma Beck, and the Jessica & Stanley Prescott Trust. Reflective of its commitment to building community, FOTM strives to collaborate with other community resources and relies heavily on the contributions of dedicated volunteers and supporters.

[Focus on the Masters](#) is a non-profit educational project documenting many of the contemporary artists of our time both visually and literally. This historic program was founded by photographer Donna Granata in 1994. It was fueled by the desire to document Ventura County's master artists and to demonstrate to the community the importance of the arts by bringing the highly accomplished artists to the forefront of the community. FOTM has two objectives; 1) to document these extraordinary people and their work through museum-quality photographs, personal interviews, oral histories and biographical research which encompasses the artist's experiences, artistic thought and development, and 2) to utilize the ever growing resources for the benefit of both the artists and the public at large through educational outreach, lecture series, cable access programming, exhibitions and publications. The project encompasses the artist's lives, their art, and most importantly, their contributions to society. To learn more, log on to [www.FocusOnTheMasters.com](http://www.FocusOnTheMasters.com) or call 805.653.2501.

**Exhibit open Monday - Thursday, 10:30 - 6p.m., Fridays and Saturdays 10:30 - 10 p.m.  
805.652.1800**

**Sponsor by:** Fox Fine Jewelry, Peterson Graphics, Aloha Steakhouse, Pacific Western Bank formally Affinity Bank, Dr. Norma Beck, Jessica & Stanley Prescott Trust and ArtsLIVE of Ventura County

\***The 10% matching contribution** excludes diamonds over 1/2 carat, sale or discounted items and transactions that originated before Nov. 12, 2009. All transactions must be paid in full by January 18th, 2010. Please be sure to mention FOTM.

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