

**THE ARCHITECTURAL FOUNDATION** of Santa Barbara presents an exhibit of photography by Charlene Pidgeon:

# NOMADS OF THE SAHEL

AS A TEXTILE COLLECTOR and importer of African art, Charlene Pidgeon has made twenty trips to African countries to study and collect hand-woven, hand-dyed, and hand-printed fabrics of myriad styles. A collection of her photography and textiles, "Nomads of the Sahel," is now on display at Santa Barbara Architectural Foundation through July 31.

During her recent visits to the West African countries of Togo, Ghana, and Benin, Charlene discovered the fascinating architecture of the Tamberma and Betamaribe people. Their painted mud fortress-like compounds feature large bas-relief sculpture of such local animals as crocodiles, birds, and antelopes; fanciful mud granaries with thatched



Untitled by Charlene Nagel

conical hats; and roof terraces enjoyed for dancing and sleeping in the warm Sahelian climate. Recently Charlene designed and had built her own "sans-bois" mud brick home in Agadez, Niger.

Charlene also enjoyed the open-hearted generosity of spirit and good will of the people of West Africa. "These people, predominantly of little means, are rich in warmth, solidarity, and love of family," she shared.

The Architectural Foundation Gallery is located at 229 E. Victoria Street and is open 9-1:30pm, Monday-Thursday, or by appointment. For information call 965-6307.

## ARTIST PROFILE

# Painting the Night Light

BY JEFFERSON HAWKINS  
CASA Santa Barbara

WHILE MOST OF HIS PAINTINGS are done in daylight, Thomas Van Stein is best known for his "nocturnes" - plein air landscapes done at night. The current display of his work at the Waterhouse Gallery through July 23, features his recent work done both in daylight and moonlight.

Born in Pasadena, California, the youngest of five children, Van Stein discovered painting as a sort of therapy to release his sibling angst. "Some sort of magic happened whenever I would draw or paint," he recalled. He received his Bachelors degree in illustration from Cal State University, Northridge, then attended Pasadena Art Center College



Golden Light by Thomas Van Stein

of Arts Degree from Cal State Northridge. His Masters thesis was in nocturnal painting.

Since then, Van Stein has involved himself in over 160 exhibitions; both one-man shows and group exhibitions. He has won numerous awards for his paintings in various Southern California-based juried art exhibitions, including two First Place awards in the Catalina Island Arts Festival, First Prize in the Santa Barbara Semana Nautica Arts Competition, and Best of Show in the 1997 National Juried Arts Competition at the Abend Gallery in Denver, Colorado. He is a fifteen-year member of the Oak Group, the environmentally conscious group of Santa Barbara-based landscape painters.

Thomas has taught painting through the SBCC Adult Education program for ten years, and has held two Plein Air Painting Nocturne workshops through the Carnegie Art Museum, imparting

the secrets of his luminous nightscapes.

"I literally work with a flashlight on my hat," Thomas explained. "I look for a scene where the ambient moonlight or city light creates a feeling of mystery and beauty. By painting plein air you get a cutting-edge realism that you can't get in-studio."

Waterhouse Gallery is located at 1114 State Street, #9 La Arcada Court. For information call 962-8885.




Thomas Van Stein

of Design. Much of his post graduate education was acquired through extensive traveling worldwide; studying the art and culture in each of the 40 host countries he's visited. He went on to attain a Master




Fall Moonrise by Thomas Van Stein

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On the Arts Terrace  
653 Paseo Nuevo, 2nd level,  
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1/30th of a Second Underwater, 1999  
Wang Wei

**Waterhouse Gallery**  
La Arcada, 1114 State St. Santa Barbara



Oak and Hills, 16" x 20" Original Oil  
by Ralph Waterhouse

805-962-8885  
www.waterhousegallery.com

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**JEFFERSON HAWKINS**  
jeffersonhawkins1@msn.com