

Artist Spotlight: Gene Sasse

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By DANIEL FOSTER and JILL JONES
Special to the Press Enterprise

Photographer, author and teacher Gene Sasse has an incredible eye for composition. His photographs capture specific details and also take the viewer on a journey.

"Change is constant in the art and business of photography, but the goal remains the same. Capture more than meets the eye, tell a story and communicate a feeling without words," Sasse said.

Sasse's impeccable work is showcased on magazine covers such as American Style, Western Art and Architecture and on nonprofit websites for such organizations as Chaffey Community Art Association (CCAA) Museum and the Nursery Growers of California.

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Special to The Press-Enterprise

"For me, photography is the essence of creativity by showing life and our world at different points in time and space," says photographer Gene Sasse.

His services are sought out by artists and businesses alike for his accuracy and color replication and for his astounding technical photographic work. Sasse's high standards are obvious to his clients.

"In the rose business, first impressions are everything. A good first impression demands a good photo. Gene Sasse's quality photography has helped to set Weeks Roses apart from our competitors, since the 1990's," said Tom Carruth of Weeks Roses.

Sasse is also capable of producing works of great beauty and uplifting spirit.

"As much as I appreciate his outstanding commercial photography, it is his fine art photography that leaves the strongest impression. It is thoughtful, subtly emotional, and captures the spirit of his subjects. His fine art photography is a visual pleasure, almost tactile," said Nancy Gall, assistant professor of photography at Riverside City College.

Sasse has chosen to document some of the most well know and well loved artists of our region. He produced a book that documents the last years of master woodworker Sam Maloof. He has also produced two books about the work of well known watercolorist Milford Zornes.

The most recent volume is titled "The Art of Milford Zornes: Friendships and Inspirations." Its publication corresponds with an exhibit that runs through Feb. 20 at the CCAA gallery at 12467 Basiline Road, Rancho Cucamonga.

Through his work we gain a fresh perspective on Zornes' art and the friendships that inspired him. Sasse's photographs help us see a depth and richness in the work and the valuable experiences that shaped Zornes' paintings.

"Gene is a master of visual concepts. Before photographing, he imagines how the capture will complete a larger story. I appreciate this in his books, particularly 'Maloo Beyond 90' and most recently 'The Art of Milford Zornes: Friendships & Inspirations,'" Gall said.

"For me, photography is the essence of creativity by showing life and our world at different points in time and space. I want to give the viewer a different perspective of the world as it changes, showing the seductiveness and excitement of life unfurling as it changes in front of our eyes," Sasse said.

Sasse has won numerous awards for his work. He has taught photography classes at Mt. San Antonio College and Riverside Community College and he continues to work on new book projects. This year he plans to publish a third book on Milford Zornes for the CCAA Museum of Art and to install the corresponding show at the gallery space at the end of the year.

Through his lens Sasse gives us a new perspective each time he approaches his subjects. He opens our eyes to appreciate what we have before us in the region, and his clients and fellow artists notice the distinction of excellence in his work.

For more information visit www.genesasse.com and www.sassebooks.com and www.ccaamuseum.org.

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