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### Visalia Art League hosts acclaimed painter, photographer

JOHN COPPOLA • ART • NOVEMBER 20, 2009

From 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Friday at Arts Visalia, †Joan Sharma, associate professor of art at California State University, Fresno, will be the Visalia Art League guest artist in our ongoing series of artist lectures.

During the summer of 2005, Sharma designed, facilitated and painted a large-scale outdoor mural project with the Village of Hope community at the Poverello House in Fresno. It was a multifaceted experience that enhanced her understanding of community and the creative process. †

Sharma also created a mural for the Fresno County Children's Mental Health Outpatient Clinic for its reception and waiting room area that offers children a more welcoming environment.

#### ADVERTISEMENT



Sharma's oil paintings reflect her passion for color and light. The artist reveals that "through a gradual artistic process, my work has evolved away from an earlier interest in representing nature and towards the creation of luminous abstractions that silently resonate." Her contemplative paintings are philosophical and attempt to articulate the subtle inner workings of natural forces and the mystic state. ††

Sharma's recent paintings are abstract and employ a range of idealized geometric, curvilinear and elliptical shapes with references to various atmospheric conditions and light as they appear in the natural landscape.

"I attribute my understanding of color and the creation of light illusions to a keen observation and love of the natural world," Sharma said.

For the artist, this observation has gone beyond the world of surface appearance in order to understand and reveal natural forces hidden deeply within nature.

"In contrast to my earlier more complex paintings, the recent work seems deceptively simple," she said.

"The ideas behind them exist in a deeper level of understanding," Sharma said, in revealing the approach to her work.

Sharma's work is in private and public collections and has appeared throughout the United States and internationally in numerous individual, juried and group exhibitions. ††

Sharma's photography offers her "the opportunity to explore and frame my response to the world as I travel through life."

"The instantaneous action of releasing the shutter enables me to continue the creative process when there is little time or space for sketching and painting," Sharma says.

Her most recent photographs were taken during a tour of Northern India that she co-directed during the winter of 2007 and a personal trip in May and June to Southern India.

Sharma received a master's degree in painting from Indiana University, Bloomington and a bachelor's degree in painting from Temple University's Tyler School of Art.

Sharma teaches 3-D design, color theory, photography, painting and drawing in the department of art and design at Fresno State.

She will show examples of her oil paintings and photography, including a slide presentation, and discuss recent projects.

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Submitted

"Manchu Dragon" is one of the works of Joan Sharma, who will provide a guest lecture for the Visalia Art League.

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