

# “Pairings” – A Silent But Loud Art Show of Sue Parman at the Tualatin Public Library

BY ANGELA WRAHTZ

New and exciting artwork full of conversation and created by award winning artist Sue Parman are on now on display in the Living Room Gallery at the Tualatin Public Library from December 2016 through the end of February 2017. An anthropologist, Parman has always been an observer of human relationships and has taken interest in stories told by faces. A special feature of this art show comes in the pairing of paintings which speak to



*Pirate Undone by Roses*

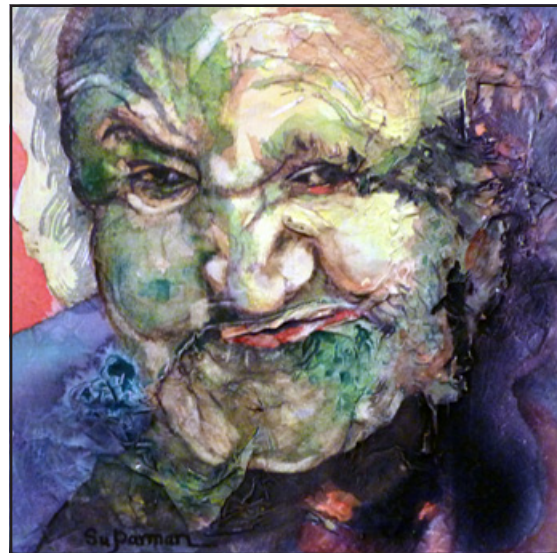
each other, encouraging conversation as they bounce off each other.

“Art is a loud but silent house, full of conversations not only between paintings and the viewers but among the paintings themselves,” says Parman. “As we look at a painting, it pulls us beneath its surface. Portraits in particular have loud voices because of the power of their eyes. They reach out to the viewer, and to each other.”

In other words, the artist and the exhibition ask the viewer to use imagination

and hear the possible conversations taking place between the characters in the paired paintings. The paired paintings are not random but draw together the life's work and vision of an artist who is also a PhD in Anthropology and former CSU Fullerton Professor as well as a writer of textbooks and other serious and seriously creative works.

Some examples of pairings from the show include a fantastically noble two-hundred-year-old sea turtle swimming next to an Afghan warlord. Another pairing--two pirates--one buried in wounds and the other in roses reflect different outcomes. What might these characters say to each other? And what about the man portrayed as three roses in “Beauquet”? Is the old woman beside him (“One Autumnal Face”) remembering her sweetheart from long ago?



*Ninety Years Later*

If you care to dig beneath the mixed media application of paint and your appreciation for the technique that translates these complex paintings from the mind of the artist, you will be encouraged to think about the similarities and differences in the pairings and what they say about attitude, wealth, cultural difference, the distance of time, and more. When art is more than beautiful, it makes us think. This is an art show that is as mentally entertaining as it is aesthetic to behold.

If you are interested in learning more about the Living Room Gallery program at the Tualatin Public Library, contact Coordinator and Gallerist Angela Wrahtz at [angela.wrahtz@comcast.net](mailto:angela.wrahtz@comcast.net). This program is sponsored in part by the Tualatin Arts Advisory Committee.



**Angela Wrahtz** lives and works in Tualatin. She is a writer, award winning artist, President of WOW! Wild over Watercolor ~ Guild of Artists, school volunteer, and a mother of two. You can view her art at [www.watercolorsbyangela.com](http://www.watercolorsbyangela.com).



*Beauquet*



*Afghan Warlord*