

Pacifica Tribune



photographer Sharron L. Walker

Above is an example of Sharron Walker's work. She took this photo of a Great Egret off the coast of South Carolina last summer. Titled "On Watch," it received a Merit Award at the Art Guild of Pacifica's 60th Annual Member Show in the fall of 2018.

The traveling lens of Sharron Walker

By Jean Bartlett
Tribune Writer

The path is simple, unobstructed, yet each step leads the viewer along a journey of Earth showpieces, the kind that visually transport you to something magical. This "path" is the Sharron L. Walker Photography Exhibit currently on display at realtor Lisa Eccleston's "Suite 1" in Rockaway. The Exhibit presents 30 photographs which travel sand, water, ascending towers and time, including beneath bended trees in woods near the Benedictine Abbey in Melk, Austria.

The show opened on the Pacific Beach Coalition's Earth Day event, April 27. Walker has been involved with the PBC since its founding in 1997. While she has done photography for more than 50 years, in 1997 she was working full-time as a teacher in the Pacifica School District.

"In the mid-1990s, I worked with the group which began with beach cleanups," Walker said. "The program expanded at that time under the organization of Jeri Flinn and Penny Keating, and it involved elementary school students doing beach cleanups partnered with high school kids. I was involved with the Salmon and Trout Education Project – we incubated steelhead trout eggs in the classroom and released them in San Pedro Creek. PBC was a natural connection for me and over the years it has expanded to be a major force in the care of our local environment. It is a great organization and I want to support its efforts."

In that regard, Walker is donating 40 percent of all sales from her exhibit to the PBC. Eccleston, whose business is providing the gallery space, is also dedicated to the work of the PBC. At this year's Earth Day event, the realtor partnered with the PBC to clean up the space along Highway 1 and Rockaway.

The realtor and the photographer met in 2007. In 2008, Eccleston put to print and mailed out the "Pacifica" calendar. Every month features a Walker photograph. The calendar, gifted throughout the city, has been photographed by Walker every year since that first issue.

"Both Lisa and I share an equal passion for Pacifica."



photo by Bevan C. Jones

Photographer Sharron L. Walker

Walker was born in Santa Maria, CA, and grew up in the Santa Cruz Mountains. She became interested in photography when she began working in the travel industry. Travel has been a part of her life since she was 19.

"As a flight attendant during the 1960s, I flew in and out of Vietnam with military contract flights as well as with charters." She also traveled the United States, the Pacific, Asia, Europe, South America and Africa.

"I am a very visual person and photography is in the moment. Documenting what I see is important to me as is sharing this information with others."

She initially documented her travels in 35mm film, later with video and presently she uses digital photography. She has taught photography in Yosemite, at San Francisco and Sacramento State Universities, and in local workshops. She is a member of the Sanchez Art Center, the Art Guild of Pacifica and Tangerine Arts. Her work has been selected for numerous juried shows and every photograph tells a story.

Included among the "stories" currently on exhibit are: "Passages," where a small child plays peekaboo behind the legs of a sculptured soldier, and "Eccentric," where one tiny-shelled creature enjoys sandy solitude. Walker's "Fog Over Pedro Point" underscores what many suspect – somewhere in Pedro Point is a doorway to Brigadoon.

Walker first discovered Pacifica when working a swing shift at SFO. By day she explored the coast in her MGA (classic British sports car). "The town captured my soul," she said. She moved here in 1977.

In 1988, she became a Pacifica School District teacher, teaching mostly third and fourth grades. She retired from the District in 2004.

"I continued travel during summers while I taught, acquiring some grants to work on projects with Earthwatch and Audubon for which I created curriculum for my classroom involving photography. For several summers in the early 2000s, I worked as a youth coordinator designing and presenting programs to kids on board a small boat traveling in and around the Galapagos and Alaska's Inside Passage."

Since retiring, she and her partner Bevan have done quite a bit of traveling, including to Patagonia, South Africa, Nova Scotia, Australia and throughout the US – the latter in their camper van. Her camera is always by her side.

The photographer wears many hats. She is a volunteer with San Mateo County Parks at San Pedro Valley Park and Devil's Slide, a past board member and producer for Pacific Coast Television, a past board member of Friends of San Pedro Valley Park, and presently serves on the Board of the San Pedro Watershed Coalition. She has been a three-time judge for the Pacifica Coast Fog Fest Photography Competition. She also plays ukulele with Pacifica's Coastside Strummers.

"It's all about being in the moment."

"Images by Sharron L. Walker" at Suite 1 of Eccleston Inc., 205 Rockaway Beach Avenue, Pacifica. Reception, Thursday, May 16, 4-6 p.m. Exhibit and sale runs through June 30. Contact the artist: sharronlee@aol.com. Website: <http://www.imagesbyslwalker.com>.

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