



Think  
Talk  
Share

Art

Linda Ryan is an abstract figurative artist and fine arts muralist who lives in Livermore. She is the instigator of ArtWalk, a walking tour in which downtown Livermore businesses exhibit an artist's work. She and her friends formed a new non-profit group (called Tri-Valley Artists Guild) to produce arts events, create a free artists' directory and educate and promote the arts here

**I**n recent years we've seen a groundswell of interest in the arts here in the Tri-Valley, from the performing arts to the visual. Everything is in place to create a renaissance in our own backyard. The choices we make now will determine the future of the arts here.

Attend cultural arts events. Good attendance encourages artists to continue performing. It encourages the organizers and their sponsors to continue in the efforts to bring the art to you. And sometimes it helps financially, through ticket sales or through the purchase of art that

moves you. But while that can help a group to continue renting the halls for practice and performance space, or help an artist buy more canvas, that's not the main reason for attending.

Most importantly, an audience can experience the work's communication—above all, this is what an artist is seeking, or the work would not be created and shown. There is nothing more awakening than that buzz that goes off within us when we really “get” a work of art. That connection, between the artist and the person who experiences it, is what it's really all about.

Telling others about it helps, too. It doesn't only help the artists—it helps those you've told, who get to experience the work themselves. Spending a day or evening in an art-spirited environment nourishes the humanity within us. Talking and thinking about the arts encourages creative thinking and makes us look at things differently. ▼

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *We welcome personal essays from readers with broad appeal. If you have an idea for a Last Call column, write me at [marcia@trivalleymagazine.com](mailto:marcia@trivalleymagazine.com).*