

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Portraits capture familiar Ojai faces

Portraiture will be the focus of the Ojai Valley Museum's first exhibition, "Fine Portraits/Fine People," in 2015.

Museum Director Michele Ellis Pracy has selected 19 portraits of Ojai personages who are important to the history, art and culture of the area. The exhibition opens Saturday and runs through March 29.

The two-dimensional artworks, accomplished in oil, acrylic, pastel, intaglio, ink and collage, are one-of-a-kind pieces borrowed locally from the private collections of the portraitist, institutions of learning, or from the families of the person portrayed. The earliest portrait was executed in 1922 and the most recent in 2013.

This exhibit is organized to feature both the social importance of

the sitter as well as the artistic capability of the portraitist. Among those on view are: Sergio Aragonés, Peter Bellwood, Harry Gorham, Kay Haley, Otto and Vivika Heino, Willoughby Johnson, Jiddu Krishnamurti, Sherman Thacher, Constance Wash and Ginger Wilson.

The artists include John Nava, Stanton MacDonald Wright, Xavier Cugat, Micheal Dvortcsak, Alice Matzkin and Mark Whitman.

Each portrait in the Rotating Gallery is accompanied by a short biography of the person represented, which provides an historical perspective.

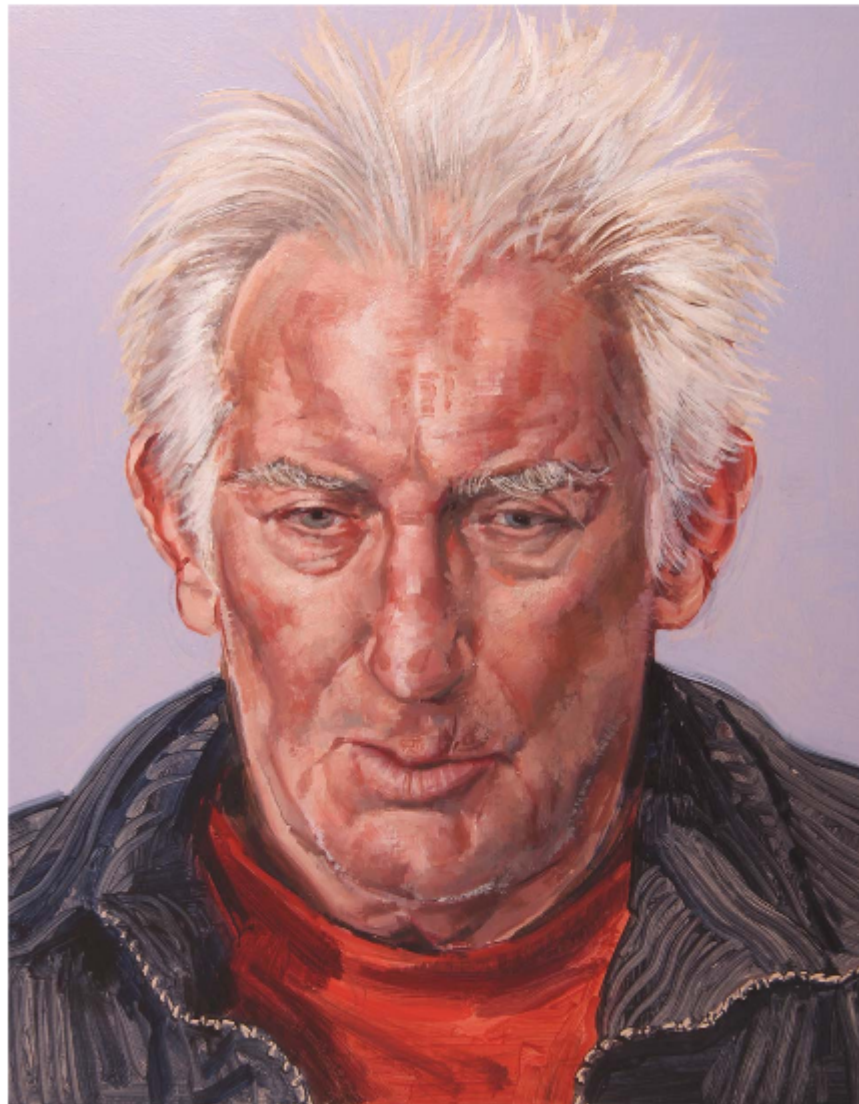
The Alcove Gallery will feature a mini-science exhibit, "Topography/Cartography of the Ojai Valley." Viewers will be able to explore the

valley geography via a three-dimensional topographical map and texts on this subject.

The Ojai Valley Museum, established in 1967, is supported in part by museum members, private donors, business sponsors and underwriters, the Smith-Hobson Foundation, Wood-Claeyssens Foundation, the city of Ojai, Ojai Community Bank, Rotary Club of Ojai, Ojai Civic Association and a grant from the Heritage Fund of Ventura County Community Foundation. The museum is at 130 W. Ojai Ave.

Gallery hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. Tours are available by appointment.

For information, e-mail ojaimuseum@sbcglobal.net, visit www.OjaiValleyMuseum.org or call 640-1390, ext. 203.



John Nava's "Peter with Red Shirt," features Ojai resident Peter Bellwood.