

A 'New Collection' from talented local artists

By Janice De Jesus
STAFF WRITER

BOB MOORE yearned to capture life in its utmost glory.

At the age of five, his English grandfather encouraged him to draw. His passion for expressing reality through art took flight in high school as he interpreted everything that was occurring around him.

"I look at reality as a criteria by which I paint," says Moore, who lives in Walnut Creek.

But his art career took a detour when he embarked into "practical careers" such as working as an accountant and professor of international business.

Though painting had to be put on hold for 50 years, Moore kept the dream alive by vowing to return to it as soon as he possibly could.

"It was one of those delayed promises," he says.

So when he retired in 1999, Moore finally fulfilled a New Year's resolution — devoting his time to oil painting.

Being away from painting didn't have any effect on his skills.

"I just started painting again and it looked as though I never really stopped," Moore says. "The brush sort of does its own work. It's an endorphin-like experience."

He prefers to paint about reality, moving from a still-life to a portrait, and on to a landscape.

"I get stale if I'm painting any one kind of particular subject," he admits. "I find I do better when I approach them fresh."

"Girl on a horse in a stream," and Moore's other paintings are featured at a new show "New Collection of Art by Bay Area Artists," at the Valley Art Gallery in Walnut Creek through Oct. 18.

The exhibit features art work by more than 100 local artists. The art is available for sale or for rent.

After viewing works of art in museums and galleries all over the world, Moore is thrilled to be showing his own art. Visiting the world's most renowned museums served as his art education.



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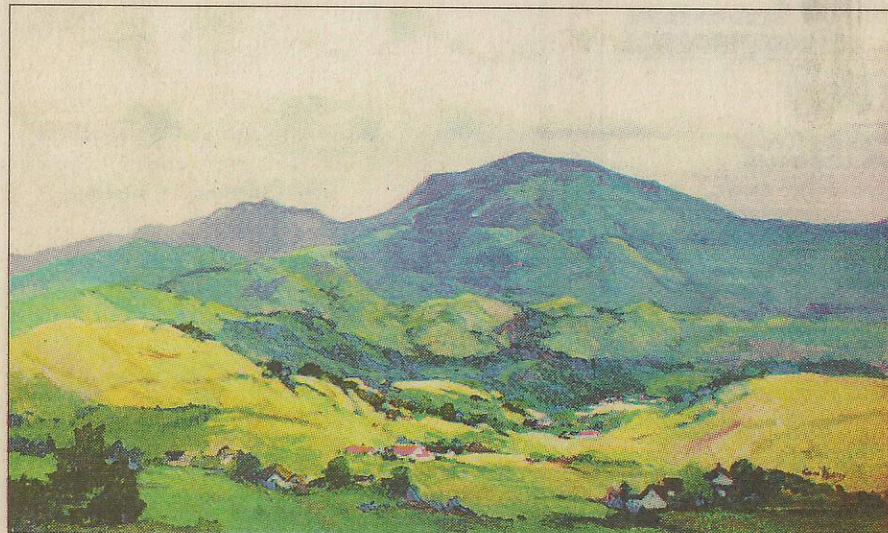
AFTER WORKING as an accountant and professor of international business, Walnut Creek artist Bob Moore can get back to his true love: painting. This original oil painting by Moore will be shown in "New Collection of Art by Bay Area Artists."

IF YOU GO

- **WHAT:** "New Collection of Art by Bay Area Artists"
- **WHERE:** Valley Art Gallery, 1661 Botelho Drive, Walnut Creek
- **WHEN:** On display through Oct. 18.
- **INFORMATION:** Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For a virtual tour of the gallery, visit the Web site at www.valleyartgallery.org. For more information, call 925-935-4311.

"Going to museums has always been a form of recreation for me," he says.

Kathleen Brennan took up art as therapy nine years ago when her house burned down. She started experimenting with watercolors and now teaches art all over the United States and in other countries.



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ARTIST GERI KEARY of Martinez uses impressionist style painting for her landscapes, such as the one pictured here, "From Lafayette." It will be on display at the Valley Art Gallery in Walnut Creek.