



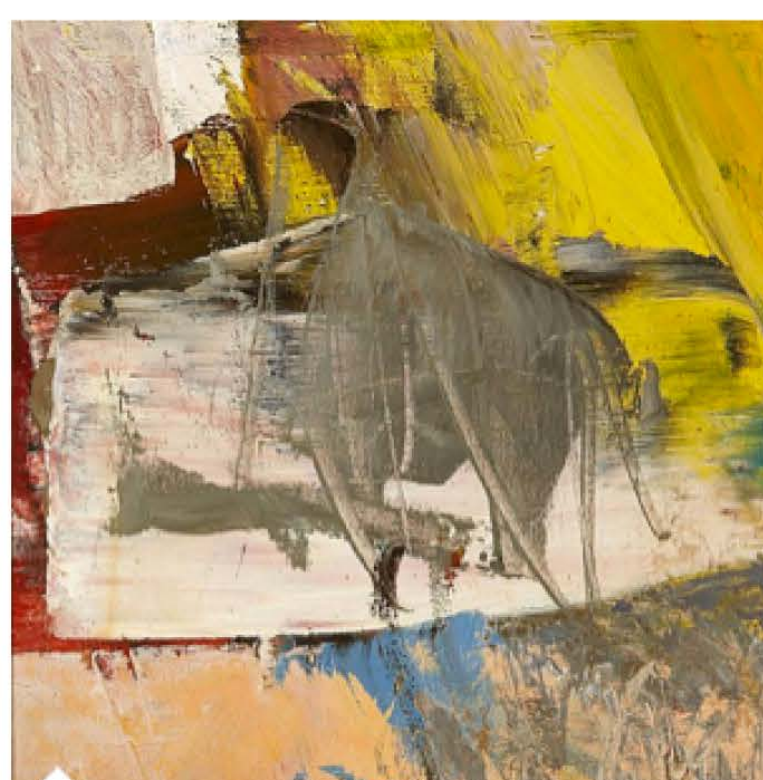
## Monterey Peninsula art galleries not to be missed

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unknown / winfield gallery, carmel

"Lifting Grey" is an abstract expressionist gem by John Saccaro at Winfield Gallery.

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Weston Gallery, attest that art photography remains serious business on the Monterey Peninsula.

Photography West prides itself on showing only the work of photographers who did or do their own printing, from the likes of Brett Weston (1911-93), son of Edward Weston, and Adams to the celebrated color landscapist Christopher Burkett, featured in the gallery's current show, and relative newcomer Sean Kernan, who practices a refined surrealism.

The Weston Gallery welcomes visitors with vintage prints by canonical early figures from photography's history such as Eugene Atget, Edouard Baldus and E. Carleton Watkins, as well as those by household names such as Adams and Paul Strand. The gallery also places work by contemporary photographers in the context that its stellar inventory provides. Its current show (through Jan. 2) features landscapist William Neill, whose recent series uses camera movement to impressionistic effect.

In the realm of contemporary art, the Winfield Gallery appears to specialize in nothing in particular, which makes it fascinating to visit. Out of a great jumble of stuff in the gallery popped some remarkable things: sculptures by Stephen De Staebler and Jack Zajac, a little gem of abstract expressionism by John Saccaro (1913-81) and raku sculptures by Karen Shapiro that included prescription pills the size of throw pillows.

Another long-standing Monterey County cultural landmark is Carmel's 62-year-old multidisciplinary nonprofit Carl Cherry Center for the Arts. A fine solo exhibition by assemblagist Victoria May continues there through Friday.

Finally, no visitor to the area should overlook the Monterey Museum of Art, which has outstanding collections of photography and early California painting. MMA has recently begun a contemporary art projects program that currently spotlights [Los Angeles](#) painter [Ingrid Calame](#).

Like me, you might think of Carmel as [Thomas Kinkade](#) country, where saccharine art product rules unchallenged. But think again.

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The franchise Kinkade gallery in Carmel closed recently. (Kinkade lovers need not worry though, the "National Archives" of the Painter of Light's originals reside in Monterey proper.) And while pictorial kitsch may yet greet the eye around any given corner in Carmel, the beguiling village boasts several galleries that no collector or informed browser should miss.

For early California painting, few showplaces compete with the 30-year-old Trotter Galleries, with locations in Carmel and Pacific Grove.

During my visit, the Carmel venue featured an ongoing exhibition of works in various media by the [Chinese American](#) painter S.C. Yuan (1911-74). Ranging between the tonalist and post-Impressionist extremes of Monterey art colony style, Yuan worked wildly unevenly. But at his best, he refreshed the stylistic conventions he inherited.

Trotter also has on view fine examples of work by other painters not as well known outside California, such as Granville Redmond, Armin Hansen and Selden Gile.

Galleries are not the only artistic claim to fame for Carmel. Among those artists who lived there was [Edward Weston](#) (1886-1958), who settled in Carmel in mid-career. Other [San Francisco](#) photographers of the so-called [Group f/64](#), such as [Ansel Adams](#) and [Willard Van Dyke](#), also lived and worked in the region.

Two thriving galleries, Photography West and the