

# California

BEST OF THE WEST



BATH MOTEL STUDY 1 BY MELISSA CHANDON

## Images for a Bygone Era

**EUREKA....** Melissa Chandon is known for focusing her artistic eye on vanishing icons of America, including roadside attractions, old agricultural equipment, neon signs, and Volkswagen buses. Her nostalgic images capture the emotion behind these disappearing symbols. Chandon's provocative use of shape and shadow create an aura of solitude and privacy in which the viewer is slowly drawn into the scene. This month the Morris Graves Museum of Art presents new paintings by Chandon. Meet the artist at a reception from 6 to 9 p.m. on June 2.

*Melissa Chandon: Landmarks, through July 1, Morris Graves Museum of Art, 707.442.0278, [www.thepalette.com](http://www.thepalette.com)*

## Seaside Paint-Out

**SAN CLEMENTE....** The annual Paint San Clemente Plein Air Competition unfolds at the San Clemente Art Gallery this month. More than 100 artists are invited to capture the picturesque beach town nestled between Los Angeles and San Diego. Often referred to as "The Spanish Village by the Sea," it is a destination for tourists and home to an eclectic mix of artists, surfers, and executives. Last year's event attracted more than 2,000 people. Participating artists include Gordon Lewis, Jennifer Friend, Steve Kell,

Carole Mayne, and Erich Neubert.

*Paint San Clemente Plein Air Competition, June 23-August 3, San Clemente Art Gallery, 949.369.0260, [www.scartgallery.com](http://www.scartgallery.com)*

## Fresh Figures

**LOS ANGELES....** Timothy Yarger Fine Art presents an intriguing show of figurative works by Ray Turner, Steve Huston, and Alexander Rokoff this month. For more than 20 years, and against popular trends and academic pressure, the artists have staked out important new territory within the figurative movement. Turner, Huston, and Rokoff each employ the human figure as a powerful tool in expressing personal narratives and attitudes toward the modern human condition. They embrace classic painterly styles, luring viewers in with the familiar while at the same time creating contemporary, fresh imagery. *Corpus Maximus 2007: The New Figurative, through June 15, Timothy Yarger Fine Art, 310.278.4400, [www.yargerfineart.com](http://www.yargerfineart.com)*



HOPE BY RAY TURNER

For more event information, see page 113 or [southwestart.com](http://southwestart.com).  
Written by Bonnie Gangelhoff.