

Santa Paula Art Fair

A HISTORY OF THE ART & PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

We are so blessed with such a rich art history that we are happy to be able to share it with you. Though the founders of this show are no longer living, their works are currently more valued than ever. The original artists involved with the first show in 1936 at the Santa Paula Chamber of Commerce's Directors Office were Cornelis and Jessie Arms Botke along with the co-founder Douglas Shively. With such a small start, and open only a few days, the show's reputation and participation has grown to the hanging of 263 works of art last year running for four weeks.

The first purchase prize was awarded the winning painting by the Santa Paula Chamber of Commerce in 1937 and was followed by many years of the city's acquisition of these paintings to form the large collection that hangs in our library, schools, oil museum, the city council chambers, city hall and other public buildings.

Douglas Shively's notes record the show being in the Directors Office until 1939 then from 1939 to 1942 it was held in the Chrysler Showroom. From 1943 to 1969 it was in the High School Library and moved to the Cafeteria for several years. Finally, the exhibits were re-located to the Blanchard Community Library in the remodeled old Safeway store where they have remained to this day, except for 1991, when it was held at the depot.

Originally the paintings' subjects were limited to within eight miles of Santa Paula but currently the artist/photographer may choose the location from anywhere. The prizes are awarded by three methods of balloting. A panel of judges make their selections, the public is asked to vote for their favorites and the artists and photographers are able to make their "Jury of Your Peers" votes for the Douglas Shively Award of Excellence.