

**"R A D I C A L
B E A U T Y :
M A L I B U
R I S I N G"**

ARTISTS BRING FORM TO FEELINGS POST-WILDFIRE

"ONCE THE STORM IS OVER, YOU WON'T REMEMBER HOW YOU MADE IT THROUGH, HOW YOU MANAGED TO SURVIVE. BUT, ONE THING CERTAIN: WHEN YOU COME OUT OF THE STORM, YOU WON'T BE THE SAME PERSON THAT WALKED IN. THAT'S WHAT THIS STORM IS ALL ABOUT."

THIS QUOTE BY WRITER HARUKI MURAKAMI INSPIRED MALIBU ARTIST BIBI JORDAN TO CONTRIBUTE HER PHOTOGRAPH, "SHE WILL RISE," AND TWO FILMS ABOUT THE FIRESTORM TO THE "RADICAL BEAUTY: MALIBU RISING" COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY EXHIBITION FEATURING A VARIETY OF PAINTINGS, PHOTOGRAPHY, SCULPTURES, SHORT FILMS, WRITTEN WORK, POETRY AND OTHER ART CREATED IN RESPONSE TO LAST YEAR'S DEVASTATING WOOLSEY FIRE.

"My 'storm' was the Woolsey Fire, and if that's the worst thing in my life, I'll be lucky. But, it did change me... for better and for worse," says Jordan, who designed her pieces to "invite viewers to explore the transformative power of adversity."

"As a photographer and writer, it was natural for me to turn to my camera to express feelings ignited by the fire," explains Jordan, remembering, "the fire burned away the ground cover and

some of the understory that had adorned my persona. The bare bones of my being are now more apparent. I won't tolerate being trampled on or put up with smoke and mirrors. I want to stay true to myself and celebrate every day of my life. The poet Rumi expressed it best: 'Before death takes away what you are given, give away what there is to give.'"

Jordan, along with hundreds of area residents, suffered tremendous losses from the fire but is nevertheless able to reflect optimistically.

"The Woolsey Fire burned my possessions, but it illuminated assets I consequently value

more and now give freely—time, opportunity and generosity—as well as those elements that have always been touchstones—family, travel and nature," she adds.

Jordan hopes her photograph will help others come to terms with their own experiences.

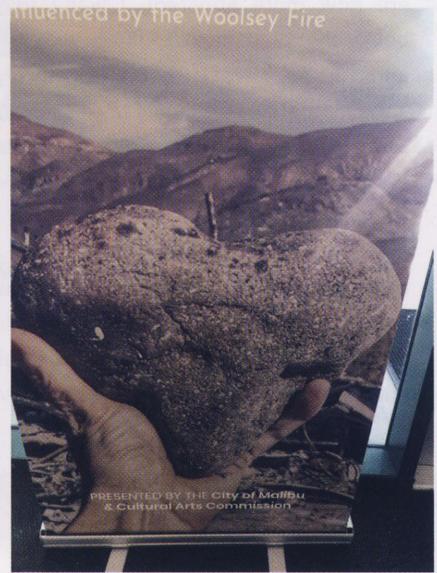
"I invite others to consider what was their own personal 'storm', how it transformed them and what is the one sure truth they learned from weathering the storm," says Jordan.

For sculptor and 28-year Malibu resident Eugenie Spirito, living through the terror and aftermath of one of Malibu's worst wildfires on record yielded deep lessons. **CONTINUED >**



"RADICAL BEAUTY: MALIBU RISING" (CONTINUED)

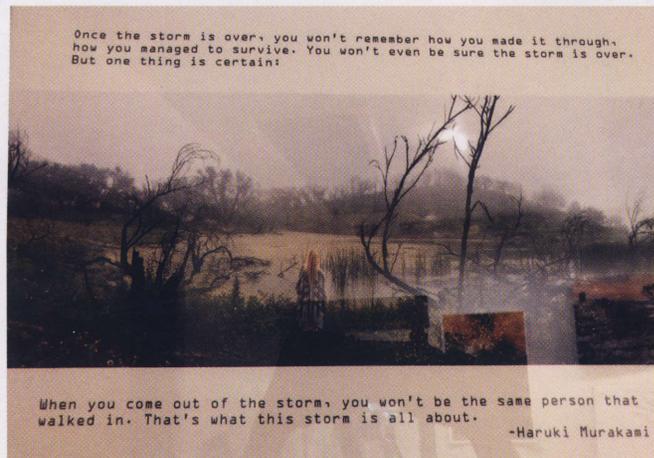
Below: "Spring from the Ashes" by Sooki Raphael



Above: "Angel From The Ashes" by Eugenie Spirito



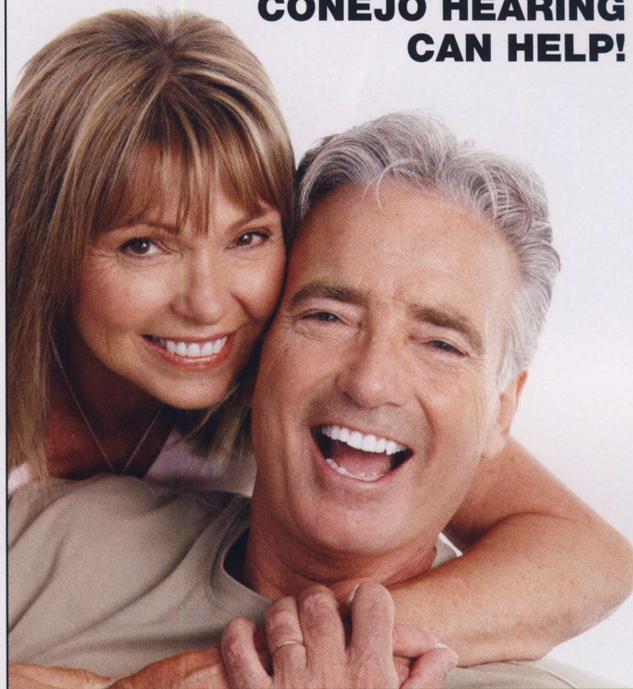
Above: "The Day After" by Henry Hungerland



**"SOMETIMES IT TAKES A
DISASTER—LIKE LAST YEAR'S
WOOLSEY FIRE—TO REAWAKEN
THOSE QUALITIES IN US AND
UNITE US TO FACE ADVERSITY."
— EUGENIE SPIRITO**

CONFUSED ABOUT HEARING DEVICES?

**CONEJO HEARING
CAN HELP!**



**WE PROVIDE SOLUTIONS,
SUPPORT & SUCCESS**

**Call Today for a
Complimentary Consultation**



Christine Wilson, M.S., CCC-A

Learn about the wide variety of
advanced hearing technology available
to suit your needs and lifestyle.

**Don't Buy Until You Try!
Ask About Our FREE Trial**



Raye Ann Clayton, Au.D.

818-991-3800

Open Monday thru Friday, 9:00 to 5:00

5655 Lindero Canyon Road, Suite 506
Westlake Village, CA 91362

www.conejohearingcenter.com

"Sometimes it takes a disaster—like last year's Woolsey Fire—to reawaken those qualities in us and unite us to face adversity," Spirito shares. "This is what Malibu, and all the towns affected by the Woolsey Fire, need—to be united with compassion, and it's what we are seeing" one year later.

Spirito's "Angel From The Ashes" sculpted for the exhibit "personifies the powerful nature of angels. They are kind and compassionate, always supportive, and yet also indestructible," says Spirito, noting that the fire also sparked the creation of nonprofit organization, ComeTogether, which is dedicated to "healing and uniting through art all those affected by the Woolsey Fires."

Malibu artist Henry Hungerland submitted his photograph, "The Day After," to illustrate the collective angst fueled by the destructive wildfire.

"Friends of ours asked us to check on their home on Point Dume; unfortunately, this is what we found: home after home burned to the ground," Hungerland recalls. And still, "It wasn't over yet, as we saw several intact homes go up in flames 48 hours after the fire, ignited by wind-driven embers," he adds.

"My home survived and so did I," shares Sooki Raphael, who was forced to evacuate her Topanga Canyon home just days after a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. "I emerged as an artist from a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer and from the ashes of the Woolsey Fire in Malibu. My recovery has paralleled the heartening rebirth of the landscape around me after the devastating fire. My colors are an expression of a renewal of spirit and life and reflect the way I see this Earth as we heal together," says Raphael, who painted "Spring from the Ashes" after a hike through Malibu Creek State Park last March. "I was undergoing chemotherapy and found strength and inspiration in the exuberant comeback of the landscape."

The second edition of the "Radical Beauty" exhibit installed by the City of Malibu Cultural Arts Commission kicked off with an Opening Reception in September featuring local artists, poets, writers, musicians and filmmakers. Michelle Wolf & John Watkin: Band of Rouge opened the reception, followed by comments from Councilmembers Mikke Pierson and Jefferson Wagner, Cultural Arts Commission Chair Veronica Brady and Commissioners Kathy Eldon and Julia Holland. Poet Laureate, Ellen Reich, former Poet Laureate Ricardo Means Ybarra, and Barbara Burke shared poems and author Robert Kerbeck read from his book, *Malibu Burning*.

The "Radical Beauty: Malibu Rising" exhibit is on display at Malibu City Hall, 23825 Stuart Ranch Road, through December 20. Visitors may view the exhibition Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.