

**Arts Profile:**

**In Conversation with Boris Koodrin and Bardi Rosman Koodrin, Fine Arts Co-Coordinator and Literary Director for the upcoming San Mateo County Fair - The Peninsula's Festival, June 12-20, 2010.**



*Self Portrait, Boris Koodrin*

Peninsula Arts Council recently met up with San Bruno couple, Boris and Bardi Koodrin. The dynamic duo has teamed up for the second year in a row to be coordinators of the Fine Arts Department at the San Mateo County Fair along with Kayte Van De Mark of Fresno.

Boris is a surreal painter, commercial screen printer, and muralist. Bardi is the author of three novels, PR Chair for the SF/Peninsula Writers Club, a volunteer segment producer of "Senior Moments," a San Bruno Cable TV program, and Chair of the Culture & Arts Commission for the City of San Bruno.

**PAC:** With music headliners including Eddie Money, Rick Springfield, Tower of Power and a Paramount Laser Spectacular Tribute to Michael Jackson, this year's San Mateo County Fair is one not to be missed. Please tell us about the exciting roster of offerings we can look forward to in the Fine Arts department.

**BORIS:** This year's Fine Arts are presented in the Fiesta Building next to the main Expo Hall. We have the Soldier's Angels group doing a design-a-card project to send to soldiers overseas, and we also have a number of feature artists, a memorial presentation for Darlene Harney, and our "Carry the Light Person of the Year" display.

**BARDI:** I'm pleased to say that our Literary entries have doubled since last year! We'll present essays, poetry, and short stories from very talented writers. Four new sponsorship awards are also available this year including the San Francisco/Peninsula Writer's Club "Most Promising Writer of the Year" award and a \$20,000 scholarship award from NDNU! Free literary workshops to be held throughout the nine-day run, plus a local author's book day on June 19.

**PAC:** The ongoing theme is "Carry the Light." Where does that come from and what does it mean?

**BORIS:** The theme first came about when I painted an album cover for blues [artist Kelly Ritchey](#). For her, "Carry the Light" was the theme for her CD and meant "no matter what storms we face, the light can never go out. Music is the light."

We're using it again now to express how an individual can become a beacon of light to others--not by convincing them of their need to follow him/her, but rather, by showing them the way to manifest their own dreams. Or, in other words, "bringing together the fire makers with the torch bearers in need of a flame."

**PAC:** Is there anything you need to help make this year's Fine Arts Department soar?

**BORIS:** We're making 10,000 square feet of space available over a nine-day period to showcase the best of all the arts in the County. Each day from 8 p.m. – 11p.m., the indoor stage is available and we are encouraging artists and musicians to come to the stage and bring their own audience.

In addition, volunteers are needed for installations of the artwork before the fair opens as well as for the actual days of the show. We'd also like to find a source for café tables, so that we can make the entire space one where people will come and linger.

**Entry Forms for Visual Arts, Photography and Video categories are due Wednesday, May 19 at 5 p.m.**

**The fair will be open daily June 12-20. Hours are noon to 10 p.m. Sundays-Thursdays and noon to 11 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays. Tickets are \$10 adults; \$8 children ages 6 to 12 and seniors 55 and older; and free for children 5 and younger. Visit <https://www.sanmateocountyfair.com> for a schedule of performers and events.**

For more information on how you can get involved, or in Boris' words, "If you have a dream that can lift others to see that we are all master artists, contact us" at [finearts@smeventcenter.com](mailto:finearts@smeventcenter.com).

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Boris studied Advertising Art at City College of San Francisco. After graduating he worked as a freelance political cartoonist for Zenger's Magazine at S.F. State, took on commissions as a portrait and landscape artist, and dabbled in set design.

In 1975 he co-founded a commercial T-shirt company, The Image Company, a company that he still owns and operates in San Bruno, CA.

In 2005 he completed a historical 40-foot mural commemorating 150 years of Jesuit education at [Saint Ignatius College Prep in San Francisco](#).



*"A Dreamer's Song" 5-piece mural by Boris Koodrin*

In 2008 he painted the five-piece mural on San Mateo Avenue in San Bruno entitled 'A Dreamer's Song'. Boris stepped into the position of Fine Arts Director for the San Mateo County Fair in 2009 in order to explore a new canvas.

Bardi Rosman Koodrin is the author of three visionary novels, "Journey to the Other Side", "Bruja" and "The Mud-Eater's Apprentice". Boris and Bardi were high school sweethearts and married in 1973. They've lived in San Bruno for thirty years and have one son, Peter Koodrin, avid photographer.

Link to Boris Koodrin's website <http://home.earthlink.net/~artika/>

PAC Interviewers: Julie Fellers and Denise Delaney