

# Datebook

On the Water Front:  
Local open-water  
competitors at the  
Olympics **E4**

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE AND SFGATE.COM | Saturday, July 21, 2012 | Section E



## ART

Italian painter's interior landscape comes through on canvas

Tuscan oil painter Domenico Monteforte's S.F. exhibition includes "Red and Gold," top, and "Lake and Landscape," right.



Photos by Federico Neri

## Colors of Tuscany

By Patricia Yollin

It doesn't matter whether the subject is food, art, travel, photography, literature or home design. Tuscany seems to be everywhere. Isn't overkill an issue?

It's not, says Domenico Monteforte, a Tuscan painter whose favorite subject is the land he's known since birth.

"It's true that many artists depict Tuscany," said Monteforte, whose "Toscana" exhibition is at the Italian Cultural Institute in San Francisco through Aug. 30. "But each picture is a filter between reality and how one interprets it. When you paint, you bring out your interior."

The 34 oil paintings in the show — some painted on partly visible opera scores — are luminous, vibrant and full of passion and movement. They include trees, hills and flowers, as well as farmhouses and the sea, but never humans.



"Spiaggia" is among the 34 paintings in the show, which the Italian consul general asked Monteforte to put together.

the interviewer found him strikingly similar to Luisotti, who was conducting "Tosca" in Paris then. Monteforte was heading there two days later, so a meeting was arranged. They felt an immediate

*Tuscany continues on E3*

**Toscana:** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon-Fri. Through Aug. 30. Free. Italian Cultural Institute, 814 Montgomery St., S.F. (415) 788-7142. [tinyurl.com/73bnsru](http://tinyurl.com/73bnsru).

"Man seems almost like an intrusion," the 45-year-old Monteforte said in Italian.

He doesn't speak English but did just fine during a 10-day visit to San Francisco to install his pictures and attend the June 10 opening. It helped that Monteforte and his girlfriend were staying with Nicola Luisotti, music director of the San Francisco Opera, and his wife in their Pacific Heights home.

Monteforte and Luisotti met in 2007. When the painter appeared on a TV show in Italy, Monteforte was heading there two days later, so a meeting was arranged. They felt an immediate



Michael Sugrue

Chin-chin Hsu is featured in Tanya Bello's "Sol y Sombra" ("Sun and Shadow") during "Werk It Out."

## DANCE REVIEW

### A midsummer uplift of fresh talent, quality

By Allan Ulrich

Midsummer is as good a time as any to attempt a bit of star-spotting, often with choreographers who are not yet ready for prime time. Thus, "Werk It Out," a four-day festival presented by ODC Theater, Werk Collective and the performance space

known as the Garage. Thursday's opening program at ODC, the first of three bills this weekend, featured two companies, Alyce Finwall Dance Theater and Tanya Bello's Project B, in world premieres. They shared a couple of welcome traits.

They're both about dance, rather  
*Dance continues on E8*



Kristen Loken

Singers from San Francisco Opera Center's summer program perform in "Postcard From Morocco." The show tells the story of seven unnamed people who meet on a train platform.

## OPERA REVIEW

### 'Postcard' acts as a platform

By Joshua Kosman

Perhaps the best way to approach the Merola Opera Program's exasperating and inspiring production of "Postcard From Morocco" is to treat it as an aria showcase for the wonderful young singers of the San Francisco Opera Center's summer training program.

**Postcard From Morocco:** 2 p.m. Saturday (July 21). Cowell Theatre, Fort Mason Center, S.F. \$40-\$60. (415) 864-3330. [www.sfoopera.com](http://www.sfoopera.com).

It certainly plays better that way than as, you know, an opera.

*"Postcard" continues on E2*

 SHERYL CROW JULY 23	 AN EVENING WITH JOHN FOGERTY AUG 1	 DIANA KRALL SUMMER NIGHTS US TOUR AUG 15	 STEVE MARTIN & THE STEEP CANYON RANGERS AUG 29
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