



Karen McPhail-Bell. *Pushcart Peddler*.

CALIFORNIA, I'M COMING HOME

Featuring artwork by

KAREN MCPHAIL-BELL

3 MARCH-20 APRIL

The Café Art Gallery
400 County Center, Redwood City
Free and open to the public M-F 8a-5p

Contact: curator@smcgov.org
Instagram: [@smc_artsandculture](https://www.instagram.com/smc_artsandculture)

As an Australian resident of the Bay Area, Karen has come to experience California as the home of her heart; a place that so openly welcomed and included her since arriving 5 years ago. This exhibition comprises Karen's love notes to California, particularly the Bay Area. Her paintings and poetry in this show highlight the joy, inequality, beauty and heartbreak of a life lived far away from home, only to find a deeper kind of connection to place here as a result.

The art reflects Karen's captivation by California's breathtaking landscapes, vibrant and diverse culture, creative spirit and open-mindedness. Layers of history shine through, not only in the architecture and geography, but in the social dynamics and institutions. A land of contradictions and wild dreams, particularly in the Bay Area where failure is no foe and inequality is entangled with orchestrated innovation.

Karen is an Australian artist and community health researcher residing on Ohlone country in Redwood City. Karen's art explores what it is to be in relationship to each other, and to a place and space. Through poetry, mixed-media painting and research, Karen reflects and amplifies what she sees and believes is possible in our relationships. Topics evident in her work include friendship and connection, self determination, environment and place, social equity and justice, and joy.

See more of Karen's art, poetry and research at DrKMcb.com, and follow her on Instagram [@DrKMcb_Art](https://www.instagram.com/DrKMcb_Art) and Facebook [@DrKMcb](https://www.facebook.com/DrKMcb).



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE
OFFICE OF ARTS AND CULTURE