

## “Nature...Abstracted” Art Retreat with Jennifer McHugh

Rancho la Bellota, Baja CA  
May 8 – May 11, 2025



**About Rancho la Bellota:** Rancho la Bellota is a beautiful, rustic working horse/guest ranch in Baja, California, just north of the Valle de Guadalupe wine country between Tecate and Ensenada. It's nestled in an oak-lined canyon - off the grid, meaning no electricity or Wi-Fi, and this makes the whole experience even better. Don't worry, there's hot water and solar lanterns, and plenty of candles! The owners, Raul and Caroline, are a wonderful couple and the most gracious hosts. They make us feel truly spoiled the whole weekend!



**Accommodations:** Accommodations are charming adobe guest cabins with private bathrooms. Each cabin sleeps two, one on a full-size bed and the other on a twin under bunk bed.

**Art workshop description:** While observing & soaking up the ranch's beauty, colors and patterns, we will create two abstract landscapes over the course of the long weekend. One landscape will be a mixed-media painting on canvas, using acrylic paint, paper, fabric and various tools for mark-making to create texture & patterns. The other landscape will be a painting on raw canvas, blending layered washes of fluid paints to capture colorful personal moments at the ranch. Although I encourage lots of photo-taking to have inspiration at your fingertips, these landscapes will not be planned ahead. Our intention is to be fully immersed in the process, watching our landscapes evolve intuitively. No prior experience is needed, just an open mind and willingness to explore in a very relaxed and fun atmosphere.



**Horseback riding:** About 30 horses roam the ranch land and when it's time to ride, Raul wrangles them up and brings them to the corral. These horses are well-trained, gentle and know the trails very well...but you must be in good basic physical health to ride & you must be able to mount your horse from the ground to participate. Safety is number one! The ride is about 2 hours and absolutely picturesque every step of the way. It's always my favorite part of the weekend and a memorable part of the retreat.



**NOTE:** The horseback riding is completely optional. If you prefer to stay at the ranch and relax, read, paint, go for a walk, hike, or simply nap in the hammock, you're more than welcome to skip this activity.



**Basic itinerary: Thursday** - 11 a.m. caravan to Tecate border & leave cars in secure lot on U.S. side, our hosts meet us at border and drive us to RLB, cold margaritas & beer await us, relax/get familiar with the ranch/dip in pool, dinner, tequila tasting, campfire & stargazing under the most amazing starlit sky

**Friday** - ranch breakfast, art time, lunch, drive to Valle de Guadalupe for afternoon of wine tasting, back to the ranch for dinner, campfire & stargazing or relax in room

**Saturday** - ranch breakfast, art time, lunch, horseback ride OR relax at the ranch, dinner, campfire & stargazing or relax in room

**Sunday** - coffee & pastries, art time, light brunch, pack up/leave around 1 p.m.



**Cost: \$860** includes all transportation in Mexico, 3 nights shared accommodations, 3 delicious, home-cooked meals per day, adult beverages (margaritas, beer, tequila), freshly-made juices at breakfast & lunch, 7-8 hours of professional workshop instruction, a beautiful guided horseback ride, and an afternoon of wine tasting in Valle de Guadalupe wine country.

**NOTE:** A 50% deposit of \$430 is due now, and the remainder the week before retreat. Wine tastings & purchases are on your own. ALL art materials are provided...woo hoo!

I hope you can join me! E-mail with any questions: [jgmchugh@cox.net](mailto:jgmchugh@cox.net) xo Jen

