

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Sofanya White, an artist from Big Sur, painted a Christmas tree ornament that now hangs in the Blue Room at the White House.

White, who was nominated by Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel), visited the White House on Tuesday for a reception with other ornament artists hosted by first lady Laura Bush.

"I felt very honored to be the artist representing my area which I love so much, and I chose to paint a couple of scenes from the Big Sur coast," White said.

Her ornament, which hangs on the White House's 20-foot Fraser fir, shows day and night scenes of the Central Coast, including the Julia Pfeiffer waterfall and the Bixby Bridge.

"Sofanya's ornament does a great job illustrating our home," said Rep. Farr. "I congratulate her for creating such a great piece of art that represents the Central Coast to the whole country."

The White House chooses a theme for the tree each year. Last year, the first lady chose national parks as the theme. This year, she asked Members of Congress to choose an artist to create a scene representing the region.

For high-resolution photos and artist contact information, call or e-mail Tom Mentzer at 202-225-2861 or tom.mentzer@mail.house.gov.

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