

Art Matters

Taking that first step to creativity



By Janet Sellers

"It's that first step—getting out the door—that's the toughest. If you can do that, you've already won."

— Mary J. Blige

Even artists have to make time to enjoy art. Our local art venues create fun outings for all of us to share their good stuff. Most art lovers go to the events to enjoy that, and believe it or not, artists have to make the time to go to the events as well. Not true with most professions. While not unheard of, can you imagine an attorney, surgeon, or other professional planning to spend a few hours of work-related time on their day off just for pure amusement?

Visiting art galleries and art venues such as artists' studios keeps us connected with our creative community on many levels. For artists, it reminds us that we can relate to our peers in a professional way and appreciate their work and keep our creative juices flowing—also known as the "Qi field" of creative energy. For art lovers of all types, going out to the venues reminds us of that creative spark we all share through art appreciation, and you don't have to be an artist to really reap the optimal benefits of arts enrichment in our town. We have some choice events for you this month in the Tri-Lakes area.

Irmi Knoth will be the featured artist at Bella Art and Frame for November. The show opens Nov. 1, and the artist reception will coincide with the Second Fridays Art Night on Nov. 9 from 5 to 8 p.m. Knoth, who was born and grew up in Europe, studied with a variety of established artists both in Europe and the United States. She has a teaching studio in Monument, Heritage Studio, where she is the primary instructor. She has exhibited her art, and has collectors, all over the world.

Knoth told me that this show at Bella comprises recent paintings, most of them completed in 2012, and also includes some of her bronze sculptures. Her locally famous Dirty Woman sculpture is her rendition of a local character known as "Dirty Woman," for whom "Dirty Woman Creek" was named. Knoth surmises that the woman was likely a laundress, known for hanging up endless amounts of laundry to dry, but that local children referred to her with the amusing nickname.

Apparently, the woman always had lots of pets and animals with her, and that is how she is remembered today. I suppose in those days, people did not have house

pets as we do now, so she may have been unusual in that regard, or perhaps she was downright eccentric and had all her animal friends in the house. Whatever the story, we now have "Dirty Woman Park" at her homestead, and we like to think of it as one of the more memorable in our amusing mix of "Monument-al" characters in Tri-Lakes history.

I recently heard some news about another local sculptor of bronze works. Ronnie Walker, who frequently teaches sculpting in clay at the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA) as well as showing her artworks throughout Colorado, recently won the "People's Choice" award at the Sculpture on the Blue, the 2012 Breckenridge Public Art sculpture exhibition. The annual summer exhibit had the work on display from June 1 through Oct. 12. Walker's bronze sculpture of note here in our area is the historical-themed frieze Monument 1879 at the Monument Town Hall. Next time you are in town, stop by the Town Hall and enjoy a look at it.

Art events around town

On Nov. 3 and 4 the public is invited to the **Southwinds Gallery art show and sale**. Its member artists will host the group art event featuring scratchboard artist Leo Huff. Huff is the new director of Southwinds Fine Arts and Gallery, located at 16575 Roller Coaster Road, on the northeast corner of the intersection with Baptist Road. A wide variety of art and wearable art by member artists will be for sale.

Nov. 9 is **Second Fridays Art Nite** and will feature the venues of Bella Art and Frame and the TLCA for the monthly event, which goes from 4:30 to 8 p.m. Bella Gallery presents the aforementioned exhibit of paintings and bronzes by Irmi Knoth, who will give a lecture and demo on the art of lost wax casting for bronze works that evening at 6:30 p.m., in the special exhibits area. The ongoing exhibits of other artists' works will be on view, but in other areas of the gallery.

Beginning in November, the **TLCA** will have the work of about 40 of its member artists on view for the annual TLCA members' art show. The show will offer items including jewelry, photography, paintings, and sculpture as well as pottery. Exhibition dates are Nov. 6 through Dec. 8, with the artists' reception coinciding with the Second Fridays Art Nite on Nov. 9, and the reception hours

will be 6 to 8 p.m.

Janet Lee Sellers is an American painter and sculptor of public art who works in paint, metal, and concrete. Sellers lives and teaches art in Woodmoor. She can be reached at janetsellers@ocn.me.



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Above: Artist Irmi Knoth will exhibit recent paintings and sculptures at Bella Art and Frame in November. Here, Knoth stands beside her sculpture of a local character, "The Dirty Woman" of Dirty Woman Creek fame. Knoth will also give a lecture on the bronze sculpture process at the reception for the show Nov. 9 at 6:30 p.m. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

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