

Art Matters



Celebrate Colorado in the Tri-Lakes area



Above: From left, Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts Gallery Chair MaryAnn Gunter and Director Dr. Michael Maddox are pictured as they prepare to set up the new *Celebrate Colorado* exhibition. Shown are works by front range painter Michael Baum. The show opens the first week of August. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

By Janet Sellers

I visited the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA) recently and spoke with MaryAnn Gunter and Dr. Michael Maddox about the upcoming show, *Celebrate Colorado*.

Originally, they had planned another art show for the summer schedule. But, given recent tragic events in central Colorado and locally, the TLCA staff and Gallery Committee changed the schedule in order to feature a show that “celebrates the landscapes of Colorado as an

incomparable U.S. treasure.”

The show was opened up to all mediums, with paintings and stunning photography in large measure. The TLCA decided to celebrate the greatness and extraordinary beauty of Colorado in art, and invited all artists, professional and amateur, to submit artwork on that theme.

“The rest of Colorado’s nature and wide-open spaces are still beautiful, in spite of the recent fires...” Maddox said, relating to the recent tragedies that have beset the state. He shared his ideas on how we can celebrate our great Colorado natural beauty to help raise our spirits again and enjoy our state’s landscapes in art. The idea is to share that it’s still a great place to live and to visit, and it is still awesome, grand, and beautiful.

As we looked out the windows, away from the immense body of about 80 artworks brought in by nearly 20 artists, we could see the green of the mountains and the blue of the sky. Palmer Lake was dry, another shock for us all for this year; it is no longer able to reflect the blue sky and white clouds we all love, yet we look forward to when it can be full of water again.

But turning back to the art, the eternal memories in art of mountains, forests, lakes, and skies lit up the room. Each piece has the keen eye of the artist about it. Each has a sacred memory, a story, in it that only an aesthetic visual form can tell in the years to come.

The *Celebrate Colorado* art exhibit is open through **Aug. 25**. The opening reception is **Aug. 10**, 5 to 8 p.m., to coincide with the Friday Night Art Walk on monthly second Fridays.

Friday Art Nights

Second Friday Art Night will be on **Aug. 10**, 4:30 to 8 p.m. This fun evening out, complete with artists demon-

strating their talents live, focuses on our local art scene of Tri-Lakes from the Monument “art quarter” to Palmer Lake and the TLCA. Actually, Second Friday Art Night will eventually offer venues throughout the community, so be sure to get your map—you can print it from the website. It is sponsored by Monument Arts, a local community of artists and galleries that meets several times each month to plan the Art Night and the wide variety of art, artists, and festive art tents you’ll see up just for that evening. Check it all out at www.MonumentArts.net.

Art Hop

Third Thursdays Art Hop will be on **Aug. 16**, 5 to 8 p.m. It’s an artsy evening for traditional and non-traditional venues, and is sponsored by the Historic Monument Merchants Association. The event is free, and many places offer complimentary refreshments. Free maps for the monthly event are at local merchants, or visit www.arthop.org for more details.

Call to artists

Monument Arts, a group of artists, studios and galleries, is offering a unique opportunity for artists to sell their work at the Second Fridays Art Walks. Artists and artisans living in Colorado are especially encouraged to apply. There is no fee, but a signed agreement per venue site is required. To request more information, please contact Monument Arts directly at info@monumentart.net.

So, grab a friend and join us at local arts events this August. It’s the last hurrah of summer, you know!

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

Local artist receives commission for 23 frescos at national monument

By Bernard L. Minetti

Anthony Archuleta, local artist, painter, and proprietor of the Secret Window Art Gallery, received a commission for 23 frescos depicting religious meditation scenes. These pieces are to be placed in a prayer walk next to the Capilla de San Juan Bautista, which is just northwest of the town of La Garita, Colo. The Capilla, or chapel, was placed in the National Registry of Historic Places in 1980 because of its significance in religious and architectural presentations in the historical venue of the area.

The “buon frescos” are an unusual form of art in that they must be completed in three hours. The work is done on wet plaster and must be damp to be completed properly. Painting is done on freshly laid wet plaster with pigments dissolved in limewater. In making a true fresco, the artist must start applying the colors on the fresco as soon as it has been prepared and laid on the medium. The wet plaster can then absorb the color. When it dries and hardens, the pigments become one with the plaster. To be technically correct, the plaster does not “dry” but rather a chemical reaction occurs in which calcium carbonate is

formed as a result of carbon dioxide from the air combining with the calcium hydrate in the wet plaster.

Archuleta has begun the work in his gallery and has been commissioned to complete 23 pieces ranging from 3 feet to 8 feet in height. They are to be placed in a meditational walk next to the Capilla. The site will encompass an area the size of a football field.

Archuleta learned his skills in this field from renowned Russian buon fresco artist Ilia Anossov. Archuleta has a master’s in business administration and has an art undergraduate degree from Colorado State University. He has a Spanish/Apache heritage, and he says much of his talent in art is derived from that lineage.

Archuleta has centralized the project in his gallery here in Monument, but will travel to La Garita to complete the larger pieces. The work and its progress may be seen at the gallery, 47 Third Street in Monument. Archuleta and his wife, Rhoda, invite interested residents to view the work and its progress.

Bernard Minetti can be reached at bernardminetti@ocn.me.



Above: Anthony Archuleta and wife, Rhoda, stand next to a study that was prepared to crystallize the theme of prayer and meditation for frescos that he is completing for placement at the Capilla de San Juan Bautista located in La Garita, Colo. *Photo by Bernard Minetti.*

Snapshots of Our Community



WMMI celebrates 30 years

By David Futey

On July 14, the Western Museum of Mining & Industry celebrated 30 years of educating its visitors on history and continuing contributions of mining to the American West at the North Gate property. The museum was originally started in 1970 at a location on Voyager Parkway.

At the celebration, more than 300 people feasted on cake, watched the operation of the stamp mill, and learned about the history of burros in the mining industry through museum interpreters and the museum’s mascot, Nugget. Members of the museum were given a golden railroad spike to commemorate the day.

Upcoming events at the museum are at www.wmmi.org.

Left: Steve Berry operates a 1920 Osgood steam shovel. **Right:** Staff from the Hidee Mine, located near Central City, processed gold ore through the museum’s 10-stamp Yellow Jacket stamp mill. *Photos by David Futey.*

