

Art Matters

Make your “staycation” with local art



By Janet Sellers

Did you know that the classic elements of composition for paintings, photos, and even videos keep the same rules? Yep. Regardless of the era of art and imagination, the way we see and perceive through our eyes to our brain is the same as when Leonardo and Michelangelo got to work on their art. Just because styles change doesn't mean our eyes and perception change all that much—it's how we're wired.

Our eyes send the visual image to our brain, and our brain interprets the imagery for immediate action as a safe situation or a threat to our safety. That's why both still images in paintings and photography can be as visually interesting as action movies. We have to view and interpret the visual information that we see, and that gets our attention and thereby enjoyment.

Our eyes don't know if it is a real bear (yikes!) in front of us or just a painting or movie of it, so when we see an image, both a live or a picture image can get a rise out of us. We are open to the message of the image and ready for action just by that informed glance.

When we take an art or photo class, and even when we just take up the pencil on our own, we practice the basics of images or making marks, but frequently, if the meaning via composition is not in the mix, the work can come out bland or worse, even when the subject is rendered just fine. Using the power of composing for visual thought in addition to good, strong drawing or camera skills begets an immediately satisfying work of art, even with some technical errors. This is because our intent, our message, is clear even if we are new to art and our abilities in the medium are at the beginning stages.

After all, once our interest is piqued we want to

examine an image for ourselves, and I bet that is the attention an artist wants for the work, besides the sale, of course. Even the allure of modern art ostensibly relies on this tactic: reaction over technique. We have oodles of art to visit locally, art as do-it-yourself via an art class, our local monthly Art Hop, and of course, our wonderful public art is all over Tri-Lakes, with new pieces this month!

June Arts Events

Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts hosts the art show, *Criteratti*, juried by acclaimed artist Rodney Wood, 304 Highway 105, Palmer Lake.

Art Hop opens June 19, 5 to 8 p.m., with over a dozen local Historic Monument merchants participating. Historic Monument is the quadrant of Second Street to Third Street between Front Street and Beacon Lite Road. The following venues sent me their show updates: Bella Art and Frame Gallery, Balance June 4-28, wall sculptures by Geoff Wilder; Wisdom Tea House, Fiddlesticks June 10 to Aug. 2, paintings by Douglas Buchman.

Palmer Lake Art Group: Opening June 20-22, “Symphony in Color Fine Art Show and Sale,” Mountain Community Gallery at Mountain Community Church, 643 Highway 105, Palmer Lake. Artist reception Friday, June 20, 5 to 9 p.m.; event benefits local D-38 art students with scholarships.

Tri-Lakes Views will have 13 new sculpture installations in the Monument Sculpture Park and in sites around town on June 19, with a celebration during the Art Hop, 5 to 8 p.m. at the new Catriona Cellars, 243 Washington St., Monument.



Above: Artist Vicky Mynhier, left, shows off her painting that won the label contest alongside Catriona Cellars' own Catherine Woodworth, namesake for the new winery at 243 Washington St., Monument. Photo by Janet Sellers.

Janet Sellers is an American artist and art teacher. She teaches art locally, exhibits her paintings all over the world when possible, and makes public art sculptures for Colorado cities. She can be reached at janetsellers@ocn.me.

Snapshots of Our Community

Kiwanis receives chamber award



Above: The Monument Hill Kiwanis Club, represented by Kiwanis President Bill Healy, was recognized by the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce as the Non-Profit of the Year at the Chamber's annual dinner and awards ceremony held at the Pinery on March 29. Photo by Warren Gerig.

TLCA hosts Bowersox



Above: On May 2, Crystal Bowersox continued her inaugural tour of the Rockies at the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA). Bowersox, the runner up for the ninth season of “American Idol,” dazzled the attendees of the sold-out show with her vocal range and musical arrangements. Accompanied by her three-piece band, she played a number of her songs off her album *All That for This*. Information on upcoming events at the TLCA is at www.trilakesarts.org. Photo by David Futey.