

**Inbrief**

**Adair Margo opens new gallery with Islamic art expert, author**

Gallery owner and arts world mover and shaker **Adair Margo**, chairwoman of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, is bringing author, illustrator and Islamic art historian **Sabiha Al Khemir** to town this week for three days' worth of art exhibiting, book reading, signing and discussion.

It is the first public venture of her new gallery, Adair Margo Fine Art, Suite 602 of the Martin Building at 215 N. Stanton.

Tunisian-born Khemira, who taught Islamic art at the British Museum, will exhibit illustrations from children's books "Thousand and One Nights" and "Island of the Animals" from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday at the gallery, where a public reception will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday.



Courtesy of Adair Margo Gallery

**"Jinni Confronts Fisherman & Son" by Sabiha Al Khemir.**

She'll give a reading and talk, "Then Into Now — There Into Here," at 6 p.m. Wednesday at the El Paso Museum of Art.

Khemir also will have a book signing at noon Thursday at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology, 4301 Trans Mountain.

"She has been widely feted in Washington as a voice of understanding and the bridging of cultures," Margo said of her inaugural exhibit subject. "A good way to begin understanding is through children's books — and we will exhibit illustrations of classic Islamic tales in my new space Downtown."

**Information:** www.adairmargo.com; 533-0048.

**Aerosol artists spray for a cause**

Some call it graffiti. Others, serious about it, call it street art. Call it what you will, a unique art exhibit coming to El Paso May 23-24 will double as a benefit for the El Paso Rescue Mission.

Called "**Pieced Together**," it's a national tour that features spray-painting Picassos, all of whom are from Texas — including El Paso's **Dave "Grave" Herrera**. The show will be from 3 to 11 p.m. May 23 and 4 to 9 p.m. May 24 at The Silos Aerosol Art Space, 1949 W. Paisano, next to the mission.

All art created at the event is for sale. Admission is free, but Herrera is asking anyone interested in attending the show to bring packaged coffee, coffee mugs, cream and sugar, which will go to supply the mission.

It's a drug- and alcohol-free event. **Information:** 731-2791.

**Dreamy photography at La Fe**

Young photographers ages 11 to 16 in the just-opened "**Developing Dreams**" exhibit trained their cameras on the Segundo Barrio cultural magnet, Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe, and snapped away. The stuff of their visions is on exhibit through mid-May in Galeria Aztlan, which is in the rear building at the La Fe Cultural and Technology Center, 721 S. Ochoa.

The show, curated by the Junior League of El Paso, is the result of La Fe's Developing Dreams program, which is designed to teach low-income children a sense of community awareness, history and self-esteem.

**Information:** 584-3511.

**EPYSOs introduces new manager**

Lesley Chen has been named general manager of the **El Paso Youth Symphony Orchestras**, effective June 1. She takes over for outgoing executive and music director **Benjamin Loeb**, the El Paso Symphony Orchestra's youth program announced.

Chen is a violinist with the El Paso, Las Cruces and El Paso Opera orchestras. She has violin performance degrees from the Peabody Conservatory and the University of California at Santa Barbara. She originally was recruited by Loeb as the organization's administrative director, a job she held for more than two years before teaching violin and viola at New Mexico State University.

Loeb stepped down from the group he founded on March 29 to pursue "other professional opportunities," according to the EPYSOs.

**It's the board's turn to exhibit**

Local art lovers know all about the **El Paso Art Association** and its Crossland Gallery, where area painters and other artists routinely exhibit. Well, it's the board's turn.

The association's "**Board of Directors Exhibit**" opened Saturday and will run through May 9 at the gallery, 500 W. Paisano. It includes works by all the board members, including President **Reginal Watterson**. Also exhibiting: **Martha Arzabala, Al Borrego, Nancy Bissell, Stephanie Conwell, Teresa Fernandez, Jean Holenthaler, Maritza Jauregui, Atalo Mendez, Tracy Navar, Art Nunez and Teri Spicer**.

**Information:** www.elpasoartassociation.com; 534-7377.

**Museum class makes art of trash**

Hey, don't just walk by that paper cup in the parking lot. Make art out of it! The El Paso Museum of Art will show you how to turn discarded trash and other materials into art with a workshop from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday at the museum.

The **Earth Day Family Workshop** will use paper, cans and "found objects" for source materials.

The cost is \$10 a person, \$25 for groups of three or more museum members; \$12 a person, \$30 for groups of three or more nonmembers.

**Information:** www.elpasomuseum.org; 532-1707, ext. 27.

Send submissions to Doug Pullen at dpullen@elpasotimes.com; 546-6397.

# Exquisite antiques

## Susan Eisen shares love of treasures from other eras

**By Doug Pullen**

El Paso Times

EL PASO — Susan Eisen pulls the loupe, a special magnifying monocle jewelers use, up to her right eye and examines the inside of the thin Tiffany and Co. pocket watch that could be a century old.

Turns out the inner workings are still working. "Look at that," she said, offering the loupe and finely inlaid watch. "Look at the detail."

She's right. The intricately patterned handiwork inside the watch, not to mention the small inlaid gems and the gears that are very much in motion, all suggest a craftsmanship and attention to detail you don't see in your average, everyday timekeeper.

The watch — made for Tiffany, the gold standard in fine jewelry, by Swiss watchmaker Audemars Piguet — is part of the nationally recognized jeweler's personal collection, and part of a show of vintage jewelry that will be on display in the gallery at Susan Eisen Fine Jewelry and Watches from Tuesday through April 30.

About 40 pieces will be on display, many of them family heirlooms from friends and customers that have never been shown in public before.

"There are a lot of treasures in this town. We just have to uncover them," said Eisen, a licensed appraiser, jeweler and author who will receive the Small Business Person of the Year Award May 15 from the El Paso Small Business Administration.

The show will focus on watches, rings, bracelets, necklaces, brooches and other pieces of fine jewelry from the Art Nouveau (1890-1914) and Art Deco (1925-39) periods, including some from Mexico.



Photos courtesy of Susan Eisen



Why? "They're just my favorites of all times," explained Eisen, who plans to highlight other types of vintage and antique jewelry in the future.

"It's another kind of history of art," she said. Many of the pieces in the show have stories to tell, she said, though they've been stashed away in jewelry boxes and safe-deposit boxes for years.

"The family heirlooms in this town are second to none," she said.

The work of the earlier Nouveau period was marked by curved lines and the use of precious gems, such as garnets and coral. "It was more flowery and feminine," she said. "You typically see a lot of flowers and leaves."

**Vintage jewelry** from the Art Nouveau (1890-1914) and Art Deco (1925-39) periods will be on display starting Tuesday at Susan Eisen Fine Jewelry. Many of the items are heirlooms belonging to friends and customers and aren't for sale.

Deco relied more on lines, curves and geometric shapes and often used synthetic stones, such as synthetic sapphire, which "were not considered poor quality like they are now." Eisen isn't publicizing the value of the pieces, though she has appraised many of them. Nor will she release the names of the people lending their heirlooms for the two-week exhibit. "Most of these are not for sale," she said.

But they are for ogling, admiring and discussing. Eisen believes it's important that more than just the jewelry is handed down from generation to generation. The stories need to go with them.

She points to a small display case filled with a silver flask, cups and coasters on loan from a single owner. The Tiffany flask has a serial number on the bottom and the date "April 20, 1892" embossed on the front.

What's so special about that date? Who knows?

"For 35 years it (the collection) was stored," she said. "When it came in, it was black from tarnish. The owner didn't know the story."

"That's why people need to tell their kids what the story is behind them. They're not just objects."

Doug Pullen may be reached at dpullen@elpasotimes.com; 546-6397.

**Make plans**

► **What:** Vintage Art Nouveau and Art Deco heirloom jewelry show.

► **When:** An opening reception will be from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday; the exhibit will continue through April 30.

► **Where:** Susan Eisen Fine Jewelry and Watches, 5857 N. Mesa, Suite 19.

► **Information:** www.susaneisen.com.

# White Sands film fest moves to Las Cruces

**By Doug Pullen**

El Paso Times

EL PASO — Even though most of this year's White Sands International Film Festival will take place in nearby Las Cruces, the festival's director said she never really considered changing the name of the fifth annual event.

"No, we built up the momentum with the name," says Festival Director Kierstin Schupack.

So it's the same name, new location for the WSIFF, which will run Thursday through April 26.

Most of the activities — including screenings of more than 45 films — will take place at Allen Theatres' new, all-digital Las Cruces Cineport 10 on the west side of the Mesilla Valley Mall, 700 S. Telshor.

The move from smaller, more remote Alamogordo to larger, more accessible Las Cruces made sense, Schupack said.

"It's a larger market, there's more support, and it has a larger population base," she said.

In addition, it boasts New Mexico State University, home of the Creative Media Institute's digital film program, and other locations, such as Hotel Encanto and the St. Clair Winery, where festi-

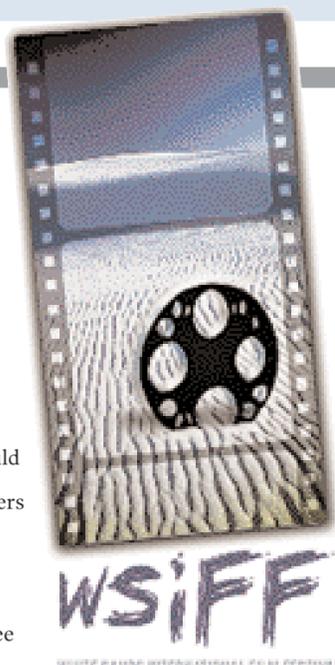
val events will be held.

The idea, she said, is to provide a common ground for filmmakers and film lovers, and Las Cruces should help boost that effort. The festival will "bring filmmakers together and help them launch new projects, get industry contacts and find a place to showcase their work," and "bring the audience, our first priority, to see screenings of good films."

The festival brings independently made films from around the world, but it has a soft spot for films shot in New Mexico and the area.

Thursday's opening-night activities will include a 7:30 screening of Michael Lennick and Shirley Guilliford's "Land of Space and Time," about the development of America's space program and New Mexico's role in it, including footage of Holloman Air Force Base and White Sands Missile Range. It will be shown at Alamogordo's Aviator 10, where many of last year's festival events were held. Repeat screenings will be at 1 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. April 26 at the Las Cruces theater.

Canadian director Francois Girard will attend the festival, which will open with a 7 p.m. Thursday showing of his "The Red Violin" starring Samuel L. Jackson in the story of an instrument's journey over



**Make plans**

► **What:** Fifth annual White Sands International Film Festival.

► **When:** Thursday through April 26.

► **Where:** Various locations in Las Cruces and Alamogordo.

► **How much:** Day passes sell for \$25. Festival passes cost \$25 for students and \$75 for adults. VIP passes, which allow admission to all events, cost \$150. Passes are on sale at www.brownpapertickets.com. Day passes are also available at Las Cruces Cineport 10.

► **Information:** www.wsiff.com; 877-345-6973.

submitted for inclusion this year, and that it took a panel of industry experts six months to whittle that down.

Mark Medoff, CMI's Tony Award-winning artistic director, will discuss screenwriting and directing at 2:30 p.m. Sunday at NMSU's Milton Hall Theatre.

Some industry types will be on hand to lead workshops on topics that include acting, auditioning, documentary screenwriting, working in New Mexico's growing film industry, using Apple's Final Cut Pro editing software, and making a screenplay pitch.

Doug Pullen may be reached at dpullen@elpasotimes.com; 546-6397.