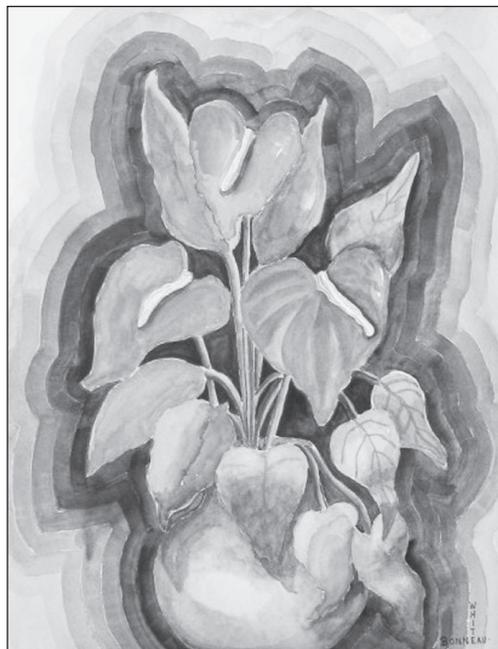


GALLERIES & OPENINGS

"Red" by Pat Bonneau White, at the Branigan Cultural Center



Art deco jewelry piece, at Susan Eisen Fine Jewelry & Watches



"Inverse Christmas Tree" by Darian Hancock, at the Las Cruces Museum of Art

Opening this Week

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY



The New Mexico State University Art Gallery will host a reception for students graduating with a master's of fine arts degree at 5 p.m. Friday, April 17. The gallery also will hold an exhibition of their work that will run through May 8.

This year's graduating students are Jose Avalos, Colin Blakley, Dianne Frank, Eric Hansen, Jennifer Higginbotham, Kristina Todd, Ned Lane,

Jesus Mata and Mike Phillips. The gallery is located in D.W. Williams Hall at the corner of University Avenue and Solano Drive. For more information, call 646-2545.

LAS CRUCES MUSEUM OF ART

The artistic talents of Las Cruces High School seniors will be on display at the Las Cruces Museum of Art during the upcoming annual "All-City High School Seniors' Exhibition." Beginning Friday, April 17, and running through Saturday, April 26, this crowd-pleasing show will include artwork by students graduating from Alma d'arte, Las Cruces, Mayfield, and Oñate high schools. An opening reception and awards presentation for the artists will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, April 17.

The high school seniors' creative work covers a wide range of artistic media, including ceramics, sculpture, printmaking, drawing and painting, photography and mixed media. The opening reception will be catered by senior students in high school culinary arts programs. Their creations will be judged for taste and presentation.

The Las Cruces Museum of Art is located on the Downtown Mall at 491 N. Main St. All exhibits are accessible and open to the public free of charge. For more information about exhibits and Studio Programs art classes, call 541-2137 or visit <http://museums.las-cruces.org>.

SUSAN EISEN FINE JEWELRY AND WATCHES

An exhibit of early 20th century jewelry designs by jewelry artists from the collections of Southwest families will be on exhibit at Susan Eisen Fine Jewelry & Watches from Saturday, April 18, to Thursday, April 30, in the gallery at 5857 N. Mesa St., Suite 19, in El Paso. Many of the historic jewelry pieces shown in the exhibit were loaned to Susan Eisen Fine Jewelry & Watches for this special exhibit, the first of its kind in the El Paso/Las Cruces area, and represent heirlooms that are precious to these families. This collection of Art Deco (1925-39) and Art Nouveau (1890-1914) pieces of jewelry represent the colors and designs popular during those times.

The Art Nouveau period was characterized by flowing designs of plants, flowers and beautiful women combined with exotic enamel, high karat gold and precious gemstones. Popular during the Art Nouveau period were such unusual gemstones as tsavorite garnets and cut coral in many shapes mixed with plique-a-jour enamel and intricate goldsmith techniques never seen since. Many of these pieces were handmade by artists in France, Great Britain and the United States.

The Art Deco period designs were in contrast to the Art Nouveau period and were characterized by geometric shapes, mostly straight lines and circles. Many famous architectural buildings were designed during that time including many of the Trost designs in El Paso.

Susan Eisen Fine Jewelry & Watches was founded in 1980, and does custom jewelry designing, repairs and jewelry and fine art appraising. The art gallery showcases designs and art by Southwest and nationally known artists and opened in May 2008.

studied art at several area colleges. He works in a variety of media, everything from figurative sculpture made with pencil rod steel to pieces made from paper mâché. Fallstead's own work will also be featured in the show.

Students in the class are John Pittari, Vi "Pupp" Scroggins, Joe Campbell, Victoria Duchnosky, Rick Kramer, Kathy Barit, Josie Nunn, Rosario Jeremias, Marie Siegrist, Mary Ellen Varnell, Mary Jansen, Dee Davis and Richard Green.

The Rio Grande Theatre galleries, located in the lobby of the historic Rio Grande Theatre at 211 N. Main St., are open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. Gallery volunteers are needed; contact the DAAC office at 523-6403 for more information.

PRESTON CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER

Nylon has numerous connotations within the art world that can offer nylon as either an artistic medium or as the artwork's context. A textile with surface, weight and strength, it also suggests elements of sexuality and spirituality. Nylon's applications are multiple and diverse, as evidenced by the works in the juried "Nylon Show," showing at the Preston Contemporary Art Center through Sunday, June 28.

The exhibition's wide range of creative works in nylon include photography, sculpture, mixed media, video and large installations. The thematic "Nylon Show" was selected by Juror Lauren Rabb, director and owner of the Gallery at 6th & 6th in Tucson, Ariz. Rabb, a graduate of Rutgers University and George Washington University, was formerly Director of Historical Paintings with Hollis Taggart Galleries of Washington, D.C., and New York City. She has written extensively for exhibition catalogs, books and magazines and is the author of two novels. She specializes in American Modernism, 1940s to the present.

The Preston Contemporary Art Center is located at 1755 Avenida de Mercado. Visit www.prestoncontemporaryart.com or call 523-8713 for more information. Hours of operation are from 1 to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday; closed on Monday and Tuesday, except by appointment.

PRESTON CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER

Preston Contemporary Art Center will showcase five artists of various mediums in the gallery's "2009 Spring Exhibition" through Sunday, June 28.

Included in the exhibition are works by Dan Burkholder, photography; Jeffrey Curto, photography; Elizabeth Galvin, painting; Jed Schlegel, ceramic sculpture; and Richard Warrington, steel sculpture.

Preston Contemporary Art Center is located at 1755 Avenida de Mercado. Hours of operation are from 1 to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday. Continued on following page

Continuing this Week

NEW MEXICO FARM & RANCH HERITAGE MUSEUM

The artwork of Virginia Maria Romero is on display at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum and features the traditional paintings of this talented Las Cruces artist. It will show in the arts corridor through Aug. 2.

Romero's work, which mostly consists of paintings, is inspired by traditional retablo painting and has recently included more contemporary influences such as totem animals, including wolves and abstract natural forms. The show displays the evolution of her work.

Romero paints images and altars that take a more contemporary approach, while still maintaining the old tradition. Through her artwork, she has been able to create a visual bridge between the historical spirituality of the people of New Mexico, to the current issues that the people face today.

Call 522-4100 for more information.

RIO GRANDE THEATRE

Sculpture classes taught by local artist Brian Fallstead will have their work featured in the galleries of the Rio Grande Theatre during the month of April. Fallstead's sculpture classes are designed to help both beginning artists and those who have created two-dimensional art develop their skills as three-dimensional artists. The show encompasses works created by students he has had in his classes over the last two years.

Fallstead came to Las Cruces from Sacramento, Calif., where he



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