



RAINBOW ARTISTS

a WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE IN NEW MEXICO

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 1990

WWW.RAINBOWARTISTS.COM

January 2015 Newsletter

January 19, 2015, 6:30 pm:
Monthly meeting
OFFCenter Community Arts
808 Park Avenue SW

You're invited to attend another doll making Party/ Meeting on January 19 at Off Center. This is in preparation for the March Earth Spirit Dolls exhibit/ fundraiser, "A Wall of Dolls". Bring a friend, anyone interested in having art fun. Again, we'll have music, treats and supplies by the tableful. Bring more materials, bark, seeds, pods, bits of wood, fabric, cord, rust, old beads, all you can find. The more dolls we make, the greater the prospects for increasing Rainbow's funds for future shows.



Recent publicity photo of the life size "Healing Dolls", an Apronista project to be exhibited at various Women and Creativity events in March. Look for the month long W&C schedule in the center fold of the February issue of Edible Magazine and on the W&C website. The assembly of soft sculpture dolls wears aprons with messages calling for an end to violence against women and offering hope and healing.

ARTdates

February 16, 2015, monthly meeting at OFFCenter, Program: **Compassion and Choices** presentation about death with dignity.

The **Earth Spirit Dolls** show will be organized and hung by the Apronistas. Hanging will take place Monday, **March 2, 2015**, time and place to deliver work to be announced.

Opening Reception will be Friday, **March 6, 2015**. Show will come down March 28 or 29. Off Center will take 30% of the proceeds of sales. All dolls will be priced at \$15, thus Rainbow can "earn" \$10 for each doll sold and we would like to fill the wall with at least 100 dolls of a size eight inches or less. All dolls in this size range will be accepted, so here's a chance to get creative, make as many small dolls as you wish and help our organization get funds for future shows.

March 16, 2015, monthly meeting at OFFCenter. Joan Fenicle will moderate a discussion on "*How Mundane Routines Produce Creative Magic*"

December's Meeting Notes

Rainbow's Holiday Party

In lieu of a December meeting, a group of Rainbow artists met for a holiday celebration dinner at the festive Buca de Beppo Restaurant on December 12. We had an opportunity to enjoy each other's art in the handmade card exchange and were glad to wish all a happy winter holiday.

Family style Italian cuisine was served in great quantities so you probably won't be able to recognize some of us at the next meeting as we gained at least 5 pounds. Those who weren't able to attend missed a jolly occasion, but thankfully will stay slender for the New Year.



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ARTportunities

Call for Artists: Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice: Want to combine your art with a social message? A group of us who were involved in the initial "Earth's Last Supper" want to revive it on Earth Day in April 2015. If you would like to make or already have a puppet or other figure of an endangered species or something that is dear to you and endangered, please come to an introductory meeting at the Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice at 202 Harvard SE on **January 22 at 7:00 pm**. Call Suzanne Ziglar at 255-4074 for more information.

Call for Art: "Homebound: The Art of Isolation"

Drop off submissions @ OFFCenter (or make arrangements for pickup) between January 3rd and January 14th, 2015. OFFCenter is seeking submissions for "Homebound: The Art of Isolation." This exhibition will feature the work of NM artists who cannot or do not leave their homes. Artists may be self-identified as homebound due to illness, disability, house arrest or other reasons. Arrangements can be made to pick up your work. Artists may choose to exhibit anonymously. Submit up to four works of art along with a small bio or artist statement (bio and statement optional). Opening Reception: 5-7pm Friday, February 6

Call to Artists: 5G Gallery 6th Annual People's Art Show (no jury; art by the people). Any medium, limit two pieces. All sales go to the artist. Entry fee \$15 for one or \$25 for two pieces. Drop off at 1715 5th St. NW January 31, 10am-5pm or February 1, noon-5pm.

ARTvictories

Grace Collins sold five small pictures at the Griegos Library this month (in support of the local food pantry) and three small pictures from Gallery St. Michael.

Breeze Wise sold an altered tin box at a social event. She will be giving a collage workshop for the Visiting Artists Series at the Palo Duro Senior Center on January 13.

Hilary Heyl has six pieces in the Las Aranas Tapestry Weavers' Show at the First Unitarian Church, 3701 Carlisle (s/w corner with Comanche) from Jan. 4—Feb. 14.

Promote your ART—it's FREE

Is your Personal ART Page in the "MEET OUR MEMBERS" section of the website?

Take advantage of this great opportunity, by being a Rainbow member, for exposure and promotion on the Rainbow Artist website in the "Meet Our Members" section. Send your bio and/or artist statement and a few photos of your art to Pea at pleftovers@gmail.com, and she will "build" your personal art page. Pea welcomes periodic changes to your page.

Over the course of a month, the Rainbow Artist website enjoys ~1,900 unique visitors and ~4,000 page



For 15 years, Pantone has selected a "Color of the Year" by reviewing influences like fashion trends, art, travel destinations, entertainment and popular culture.

Contacts

Treasurer: Carol Adamec (ccadamec@gmail.com)

Newsletter editor: Joan Fenicle (joanf41@gmail.com)

Exhibition Committee (vacant)

Historian: Janine Wilson (janineabq@gmail.com)

Publicity: Teej (tj@brimy.net), Marian Berg (marianvberg@gmail.com), Jackie Hertel, (jhquickbeam@msn.com) and Eliza Schmid (elizakschmid@gmail.com)

Facilitator Jan-March 2015: Ginger Quinn—gquinn411@gmail.com

Need a pop-up tent for an outdoor show? Rainbow has two. Contact Pea at 897-4180 or pleftovers@gmail.com to schedule using one.



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Is Art Lost in the Fog of Elitism?

By Sharon Griffes Tarr, Jan. 1, 2015

A few days ago I had a conversation with a young college graduate who is a married woman. She asked me what I do for a living. When I told her that I am a painter she said, "I don't know anything about art". When queried further her "art" world consisted of wedding pictures and inexpensive "design" art from Target. When I explained to her that art can be a conversation between the artist and herself, the same as music, she responded that she had never thought of it like that. Sadly, her response is not unusual.

Every day folks from around the world and of all ages respond to music. We hear it on the radio and TV, play it in our homes or hum it when we're happy. We experience it when alone or in groups. It's a universal language that is readily shared and felt by everyone. We respond for many reasons including our enjoyment of a rhythm or lyrics, or even the type of instruments used or the voice that delivers it. One way or another, there are few people who are not moved by music.

But when we think about it, the very same is true of art. Why then do we not consider the visual world our universal language?

I lack a formal education in music but, never-the-less, I enjoy and love to listen to a variety of styles, composers and instruments. There is nothing intellectual about it, it simply "is" for me. I do not feel that I have to "understand" music. For far too long, there has been a stigma created by elitism in the art world that implies art is high-minded and one must have knowledge to appreciate art. That art is not for everyone...only the elite. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Art certainly brings out the finer feelings in the human psyche and perhaps it is this combined with the fact that for centuries the only people that could afford art were the very rich. The general public had no access to original art works unless they were found in local churches or public buildings. Art simply wasn't a part of everyday life for the average person. Music on the other hand was and continues to be available to everyone no matter one's station in life. Hence there is a natural familiarity with music that is not generally shared with works of art.

Life is far different today in many countries around the world than in previous centuries. For instance, here in the United States, almost everyone has access to a formal education, to transportation, to mass media, etc. Our people as a whole enjoy

an intellectual status that has not been known since the beginning of time. And yet, many people such as the young married woman I mentioned earlier, still say, "I know nothing about art". Isn't it time we change that?

Perhaps making a change has to come first from artists. If we who make art were to talk more to folks about the fact that our art is a visual conversation with them, that it expresses our love, emotion, feelings, ideas and concepts about the world we live in than folks might be able to connect. If they understood that art does for the eyes and soul the same thing that music does for the ears and soul, they might understand that it is for everyone, not just the rich. In reality, art is very much a part of our everyday world far more often than is music. It is all around us in everything we touch and see. Our clothing, home décor, the design of our cars, and the construction of every scene in a movie are just a minute fraction of what we experience in a single day. Each of these things require variations of artistic thought and design to produce. Perhaps, as a beginning, folks don't need so much knowledge about art as to first learn an appreciation for the art that is all around them.

Imagine if you will, that in 2015, we artists were to make a collective effort to help teach the children in our communities the concept of art being a visual conversation. If we were to discuss this idea with the adults we come in contact with perhaps we could begin to make a difference. Just think, if every person understood that representational art expresses the artists feelings and/or ideas about his or her subject and that non-representational art visually describes those non-subjective emotions, or ideas; a defined difference between the two genres. With just this small chip of art knowledge, folks might begin to understand what art is and find in it a new appreciation. Perhaps we could even have an impact on school administrators who are so quick to cut fine art budgets if they were to understand that everything made by humankind is involved with design and concept, the foundations of visual art and all creative thinking. We have to start somewhere and I believe this simple collective effort of artists, verbally describing our creative intent in what we do, might just be the first step towards making the visual arts an everyday appreciated part of human culture. I think Monet said it very well....

"Everyone discusses my art and pretends to understand, as if it were necessary to understand, when it is simply necessary to love."

Let's give it a try!



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Galleries we love!

An increasing number of Rainbow Artists have gallery representation on a regular basis ... we congratulate them and want to give exposure to those who have faith in us.

Carol Adamec and Pea Garvanian—Weyrich Gallery, 2935D Louisiana NE, www.weyrichgallery.com

Marion Berg and Pea Garvanian—SE-OC Right Brain Gallery, 3100 Menaul NE
www.se-oc-rightbraingallery.com

Joan Fenicle—Arte de Placitas, 221 State Highway 165, Placitas - www.artedeplacitas.com

Mission Statement

Rainbow Artists, an award winning women's collective established in Albuquerque in 1990, supports, promotes, and encourages women artists.

- * We embrace ethnic and artistic diversity.
- * We strive to grow in our art and our association with each other.
- * We share our talents and enrich our creativity and our community through collaborative exhibits and projects.

Rainbow Artists
124 Marlowe NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113
www.rainbowArtists.com
(Newsletter now on line)

Newsletter deadline is the 1st of each month.
Submit your news to joanf41@gmail.com.
News can be added at any time on the website.

I resolve to
Dance! Watch Indie
READ POETRY.
TELL A STORY Sing! Film
GO TO FESTIVALS!
TAKE A CLASS See A Play
VISIT MUSEUMS Listen to Opera
Support the Arts
Symphony
bear a paint!