

Sorrel Sky

GALLERY

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"Acts of Kindness"

It has been said that there is more happiness in giving than receiving and I have been humbled time and again from this truth. Donation, philanthropy or simple kindness can expand joy in your life.

We believe that taking care of and contributing to our community is fundamental. The artists that we represent have shown that they share this mission through their abundant support and generosity towards Mercy's new Breast Care Center.

Regardless of how great or small, an act of kindness can be monumental. Kindness is contagious, and by setting this precedent with others, you can watch it extend far beyond what you might believe.

Shanan Campbell Wells,
owner ✨

Fund-Raising Event for the "Yes Ma'am – Building a Dream Campaign"

Committed to giving back to the community, Sorrel Sky Gallery is hosting a fund-raising event in which 100% of the proceeds will benefit the Mercy Breast Care Center at Mercy Regional Medical Center. The fund-raiser will help the "Yes Ma'am – Building a Dream Campaign" as they raise the final funds of their \$3.4 million capital campaign. We have asked the artists from the gallery to contribute their fine works to be bid on by silent auction. Their willingness to get involved has been compelling.



L to R: Kirk A. Dignum, Ph.D., CEO; Linda Campbell, Chairperson; Karen Mitkiff, Chief Development Officer, Mercy Foundation

"I've been humbled and filled with gratitude by the response from our artists," says Wells. "This is the first time in our seven-year history as a gallery that we have asked all of our artists to contribute to a major fund-raising event, and they've reinforced to me why we are so honored to represent such a talented group of artists."

The artwork donated is eclectic and diverse in mediums, including paintings, sculpture and jewelry. Varying in value, the art is a wonderful assembly from artists who are masters in their field, regional and national, and have shown their care for the Durango community.

Alfred Lee, Jr., a Navajo artist from Shiprock, New Mexico, featured at Sorrel Sky Gallery, donated a three-strand beaded necklace with turquoise nuggets and handmade gold beads. Stating, "I want to help," Alfred is one of our many artists embracing this desire to get involved. Over 25 artists have contributed to this fund-raising event, many donating multiple pieces.

Just a few of the artists included are: Jim Eppler, with his donation of three cottontail bronze rabbits; Stephen Day with his donation of a river scene in oil; Glen Crandall and Dean Carrier donating their signature wood-turned pots; jewelry artists Artie Yellowhorse and Ben Nighthorse have donated pieces designed in pink stones to support this great event.

The art we have received from our gallery artists, is simply spectacular. This is an opportunity for the public to obtain a special piece of art or jewelry, and at the same time contribute to the Mercy Breast Care Center.

"Yes Ma'am" con't from front page...



Inlaid heart pendant & earrings of pink coral by Ben Nighthorse

Chairperson of the "Yes Ma'am Campaign," Linda Campbell and CEO of the Mercy Regional Medical Center, Kirk Dignam, are both dedicated supporters. They know there are few people who can say they have not been affected by breast cancer and that there is a great need for this type of facility in the area.

Karen Midkiff, Chief Development Officer of the Mercy Health Foundation, is honored by the efforts of all who are involved in the Sorrel Sky fund-raising event to help the "Yes Ma'am Campaign." In their final efforts to bring a state-of-the-art breast care center to this region, she says, "We are thrilled that Sorrel Sky Gallery is helping to make health care services available in town for all women. This enables us to provide a regional service for women while attracting



"Cupid" 11" X 4" X 8" bronze by Michael Naranjo



"Solitary Swan" 8" X 10" oil by Edward Aldrich

quality staff and physicians." Midkiff continues, "We are proud to be partners with the art world, combining traditional medicine with the 'art' of healing."

The event will take place at Sorrel Sky Gallery on Friday, February 27, 2009 from 5-8 p.m. with bidding closing at 7 p.m. Many of the artists will be attending the event. You can expect to find everything from sculptures of Star Liana York and Michael Naranjo, to a symbolic original acrylic, "Dragon Fly Clouds," by Nocona Burgess, which includes the signature logo of the dragonfly that is used by the "Yes Ma'am Campaign."

All donated items will appear on the Sorrel Sky website, where early bidding will open on February 23, 2009. Calls and emails are also welcome on bidding and inquiries at 970-247-3555 or sheri@sorrelsky.com. This rare event is sure to make the community of Durango a better place. ✨



Three-strand Ithaca turquoise necklace with 14 kt gold by Alfred Lee Jr

Carol Salomon



Originally from Florida, Carol Salomon began her creative path making jewelry 15 years ago. Inspired to start creating jewelry by a fellow beader, Carol began to collect beads from around the world during her extensive travels.

Carol says, "Southeast Asia is probably the most fascinating place I've found to collect truly unique one-of-a-kind beads. Somehow, in each place I travel, I discover so much about a country and the people by searching for special beads."

Incorporating precious and semi-precious beads with silver or gold and an array of unexpected elements, Carol's works reflect an international flare. Using beads from such places as Africa, Europe, South America, and Australia, the final results are stunning and truly individual works of art.

A former owner of an interior landscape company in St. Louis, Carol designed interior spaces with greenery for corporate office buildings. The name of that company, Creative Greenery, has now been transformed into Creative Beadery!

Carol imaginatively creates her distinctive beaded jewelry right here in Durango. She participates in the Main Street Arts Festival, Art Olé at the Durango Arts Center and is featured in several boutiques around the United States. ✨



Necklace of African glass & silver beads

Pat Howard



Pat Howard is known for her bright and inviting watercolor paintings. Her natural attraction to patterns and texture is clearly evident in her work. Growing up in Ohio, she was guided through her first art instruction from her father, a commercial artist. Pat then went on to be both a designer and illustrator before becoming a full-time painter. Pat received her formal education at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Today she has a home studio outside of Durango, where she conducts an annual watercolor workshop and her creativity flows.

Pat spends a great amount of time composing a work prior to painting. This initial planning frees her during the painting process to take advantage of all the benefits of working in watercolor. She achieves the value and intensity she wants by gradually building up layers of color. Details are added last, occasionally enhancing her pieces with liquid acrylic line work.

"Painting keeps my eyes and my mind open, like opening a window in a stuffy room, making me more aware of the beauty around me. And the pursuit of a beautiful work is what keeps me painting. Making art is a soulful process for all artists—it's in the mind, in the heart, in the love we put into what we do." ✨



"Butchart Lium" 21" X 27" watercolor

Pearls

The Latin term for pearl literally means “unique,” attesting to the fact that no two pearls are identical. Since ancient times, the pearl has been the symbol of unblemished perfection, purity and innocence. Regardless of their origin, the reverence for pearls is as strong today as it has been throughout history.

Fine gem-quality pearls from both freshwater and saltwater sources occur completely naturally, but this is extremely unusual. Natural freshwater pearls are formed in various species of freshwater mussels found in lakes, rivers, ponds and other bodies of freshwater. Natural saltwater pearls grow within pearl oysters which live in oceans.

Tahitian pearls, often thought of as black pearls, are a rare find. Appearing in a range of colors, such as eggplant, peacock green and dove grey, natural black pearls have gained the reputation as the “queen of pearls.” Cultured black pearls are different in that they come from the black pearl oyster found in the waters of the Pacific Islands. Usually larger than the typical white cultured pearl, black pearls come in many different shapes.

Today, nearly all pearls are cultured. Cultured pearls are from oysters and mussels that have been surgically implanted with a small piece of mollusk shell or tissue. Depending on the type of pearl being matured, a quality pearl can take from one to seven years to form. Over the past one hundred years cultured pearls have become more viable and developed as new techniques in pearl culturing have been discovered and implemented. Artisans wanting to create a fresh, original look in pearl jewelry have an array of choices. High grade pearls are available to designers in various shapes, sizes and colors.



“Dancing Pearls” cultured freshwater pearls by Pam Springall

Exciting new designs in pearl jewelry are being created by Sorrel Sky Gallery artists. Whether mixing pearl shapes and hues, wearing multiple strands of different lengths or pairing earrings with bracelets, pearls are a timeless addition to a jewelry collection. ✨

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View artwork up for bid for the “Yes Ma’am–Building a Dream Campaign” on the Sorrel Sky website starting Monday, February 23, 2009. 100% of the proceeds will benefit the Mercy Breast Care Center at Mercy Regional Medical Center. You need not be present to bid and calls or emails can be taken on all items at 970-247-3555 or sheri@sorrelsky.com. ✨



Lorraine Yapps Cohen

Combining her technical background and her work in metallurgy research, Lorraine Yapps Cohen uses innovation to cultivate her creative skills in jewelry design. Born in

New Jersey, she comes to the art world following a 30-year career in research, development and business. With a deep love for aesthetics and design, she developed her fabrication techniques through two different internships with a goldsmith and wrap designer. These study experiences complemented Lorraine's own experimentation with metals, stones, and pearls to form truly unique jewelry creations.

Currently living and designing from her studio in Durango, Colorado, she says, "Colorado has brought a new vision to my designs because here we experience so much more of earth's geological splendors. New ideas flow freely. Design constraints are removed. Indigenous materials become wearable art."

Lorraine's signature style is centered on what moves her. She explains, "I need to be excited by the finished piece. I need to experience the 'Wow,' the thumping heart, and the jolt of excitement at the emergence of a stunning new design. Only pieces with 'Wow' factor leave the bench." ✨



Petrified Wood Necklace with 10 kt gold wire

Sharon Abshagen



One can get a sense of the joy Sharon Abshagen feels upon seeing the shadows fall across a snow-filled landscape or the wonder at seeing a beautiful reflection come off a mountain lake. Traveling around the Southwest region, she draws inspiration for her paintings from the abundant, diverse landscape and beauty of the area.

"My paintings are the language I use to communicate the natural beauty of the landscape. I want to capture the mood of the moment when I am outside painting," Sharon says.

Spending many years creating large tapestries and watercolors, oil painting is now her medium of choice. Many of her paintings begin as plein air studies, which she then turns into larger paintings in her studio. She prepares her works by applying a thin wash of cadmium red to the canvas. She also composes a line drawing of the subject in red. This red wash allows her to create a warmer painting, one that radiates from within.

A Colorado native, Sharon has lived in Durango for more than 30 years. She is a proud member of the American Academy of Women Artists, Oil Painters of America, and the Plein Air Painters of the Four Corners. ✨



"Coon Creek Sunset" 22" X 28" oil

2009 Calendar

- Feb 27 Yes Ma'am Show, 5–8 p.m.
To support the Breast Care Center
at Mercy Regional Medical Center
- Apr 3 Local Women Group Show
Featuring Sharon Abshagen, Carol
Salomon, Lorraine Yapps Cohen
and Pat Howard
Opening Reception, 5–8 p.m.
- May 1 Wine Tasting for the Durango Wine
Experience, 4:30–6:00 p.m.
- May 8 Spring Gallery Walk, 5–9 p.m.
Featuring jewelry artist Ray Tracey
- Sep TBD Tom Palmore One Man Show
Opening Reception, 5–8 p.m.
- Sep 18 Fall Gallery Walk, 5–9 p.m.
Featuring jewelry artist
Toby Pomeroy
- Nov 28 "The Collected Short Stories of
Louis L'Amour–Volume 7 Frontier
Stories" Book Signing with
Kathy L'Amour, 12–3 p.m.



New Work: "Look Out Puma" by Michael Tatom

This sculpture comes from a series of small bronze animals that have intrigued collectors for years. New Mexican artist, Michael Tatom is known for his contemporary designs and exacting craftsmanship. "The main focus of my work is to translate into bronze the essence of the animal, to capture some moment or instinct and present it in a simple, stylized form."



New Work: "Pretty Pond Platter" by Pahponee

Kickapoo and Potawatomi artist, Pahponee captures the earth-bound water's edge with this bronze platter. Vibrant patinas bring out organic shapes, embodying Pahponee's remembrance of this special place. "Inspiration for my work comes from my dreams, visions and personal life experiences. Images of my family, teachers and animals sacred to me are often topics for my work."



New Work: Giclees by William Acheff

Residing in New Mexico, William Acheff brings to his art a background rich with influences of his Georgian and Athabascan Indian heritage. His highly realistic still life work incorporates Native American artifacts and other Southwestern relics. A Prix de West Award winner, he says, "I always find that artifacts and traditions of the past seem to hold more mystical and aesthetic values than those of contemporary times."

