

Art Matters

Nocturnes and celestial lights



By Janet Sellers

Southwinds Art Gallery will hold its annual group art show and sale Aug. 11-13 featuring its longtime gallery artists, and it has added some new artists as well. The gallery represents nine local artists whose eclectic mix of styles ranges from traditional fine art to contemporary and conceptual art. Many of the artists have received national and international attention for their art, including J. Clark Wider, Marya Zvonkovich, and Janet Sellers. The expansive art gallery is upstairs from the main floor, which also includes the entrance level atrium area for works that span the two floors.

At the gallery's installation for the artists' summer shows for July and August, I spoke with new artists Thia Lynn and Stephanie Brown, and returning artist John W. Anderson. Lynn is an installation artist, with aerial works aloft in the atrium of the gallery. Lynn explained that the filtering light from above casts colors and shadows to the areas below for an important aspect of the overall experience of her work.

Brown is a glass artist, and the window light and ambient room light are vital to experiencing her art. She explained that the colors in the slumped glass



Above: Gallery director/artist Thia Lynn, left, and artists Stephanie Brown and John Anderson prepare to install artworks for the upcoming summer art show and sale at Southwinds Fine Art Gallery. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

works, which include bowls and other small works, are heated in a kiln so the glass will slump over the prepared forms, creating colorful glass pieces over the form, with the end result of permanent colors fused into one translucent artwork.

Anderson showed me his nocturnes of the heavens, including a nova and colorful clouds of nebula, as well as nocturnes of Colorado Springs. The term nocturne was traditionally used with music, as for an evening party, then evolved

to more complex works with Mozart's Notturmo in D, and in Italian the term "notturmo" simply meant it was for a performance at night.

"Nocturne painting" is a term coined by James Abbott McNeill Whistler to "describe a painting style that depicts scenes evocative of the night or subjects as they appear in a veil of light, in twilight, or in the absence of direct light." In a broader usage, the term has come to refer to any artwork of a night scene, such as Rembrandt's *The Night Watch*. Anderson has taken the nocturne to a new level, in that his works are created about the light within the heavens and beyond the mere casting of shadows in the Earth dimension.

Our local art galleries take on a new light each month with art shows this summer, and our cool evenings are a visual delight as well with our wonderful outdoor public art throughout Tri-Lakes, thanks to the Tri-Lakes Views organization, which is so supportive for our public art. Also, in honor of the summery evenings, we have had pop-up art shops—like an on-the-spot art festival—dotting our calendar's evenings, so keep an eye open for those as well.

Our summer evenings in town are traditional nocturne as well during our

Art Hop season, with live evening musicians playing throughout Historic Monument, and it has been abuzz this summer with streets and venues thronging with happy locals and guests strolling along the town's festive third Thursday evening event, art-filled bags in one hand and convivial pursuits in the other.

Art shows

Bella Art and Frame Gallery will host Front Range Open Studios Aug. 1-27, reception Aug. 17, 5-8 p.m., 183 Washington St., Monument.

Monument Art Hop, Thursday, Aug. 20, 5-8 p.m. in the "art quarter" between Second and Third Streets crossed by Front and Beacon Lite Road, in Historic Monument.

Southwinds Fine Art Gallery, annual summer art series, Aug. 11-13, artist reception Aug. 11, 4-9 p.m., 16575 Roller Coaster Road at Baptist Road (just north of Fox Run Park) in north Colorado Springs.

Janet Sellers is a local artist, writer and teacher. Her paintings, monumental murals, environmental art installations, and sculptures have been exhibited at museums in Japan, South Korea, Los Angeles, and Colorado. Contact her at janetsellers@ocn.me.

Snapshots of Our Community

Poverty simulator, June 27



Above: Pikes Peak United Way and Tri-Lakes Cares presented a poverty simulator on June 27 at the D38 School Administration Building to help people understand what those in poverty experience daily. The event simulated the finances involved in a one-month period and presented participants with the challenge of surviving that month on a low income. Participants were put into groups representing families in a community with facilities and agencies such as a school, general employer, grocery store, utility company, mortgage company, etc. These families had to work through different scenarios and problems that arose during the month such as fitting trips to the bank and other government agencies around school and work as well as paying for school, transportation, child care, health care, utilities, and mortgages. All the families in the simulation found it was difficult to pay for all the necessities, and for most it was even an impossible task as they were not able to pay the bills for the entire month. Some were even forced into foreclosure and were evicted to a homeless shelter. This experience allowed participants to see a small part of the chaos and stress that underprivileged families go through as they had to decide which aspects of life (such as schooling, health care, food, etc.) had to be sacrificed to pay the bills. Many of the participants in the simulation were from nonprofit organizations and participated to gain insight on what life is like for their clients and how they can best assist them. For more information on similar events in the future, contact Pikes Peak United Way at info@ppunitedway.org. *Photo by Lauren Jones.*

Bagnall honored for service



Above: During Gleneagle Sertoma's July annual award banquet, Sertoma President Garret Barton honored Melissa Bagnall for her exceptional service to the Tri-Lakes community. Bagnall was selected for the award for her outstanding leadership and commitment to creating and ensuring a vibrant program of services for senior citizens while serving as president of Tri-Lakes Silver Alliance. During Bagnall's first year with the nonprofit, she accepted the position of board president and led the nonprofit through both financial and organizational challenges. By the end of her first year as board president, the number of programs offered through the Silver Alliance Senior Center has more than tripled and the participation rate has more than doubled. Bagnall has ensured that the organization is financially strong and that it will continue to expand the range of programs offered to local seniors. The Senior Center is located at the campus of Lewis-Palmer High School at 1300 Higby Road and is open five days a week. *Photo courtesy of Gleneagle Sertoma's Gloria Milhoan.*

Concert in the Park, July 19



The Inman Brothers band performed to a dancing crowd on July 19 at the Limbach Park bandshell. Concert-goers danced along or sat on chairs or blankets, picnicked on the lawn, and enjoyed the classic rock songs. *Photos by Janet Sellers.*

