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## Community Spotlight



Two of Eldorado Arts & Crafts members will be sadly missed this Sept. 20th/21st Tour as both have passed. Toby Quinley whose glass chickens are in everyone's gardens, and Andrea Sharon whose photography and encaustic art grace our homes.







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**LINDA  
ARMANTROUT**



**KIM CRICKARD**



**JENNIE COOLEY**



**MONICA  
EMERICH**



**JEN TOUGH**



**TARA WHITE**

We're always looking for our readers to contribute stories and photos! Let's celebrate the great things about our area. No contribution is too small. Please email Margo. Spellman@Comcast.Net with your 300-800 word article, your 300dpi photos, your suggestions, and requests. And if you'd like to volunteer to write or take photos for us, let's make it happen!



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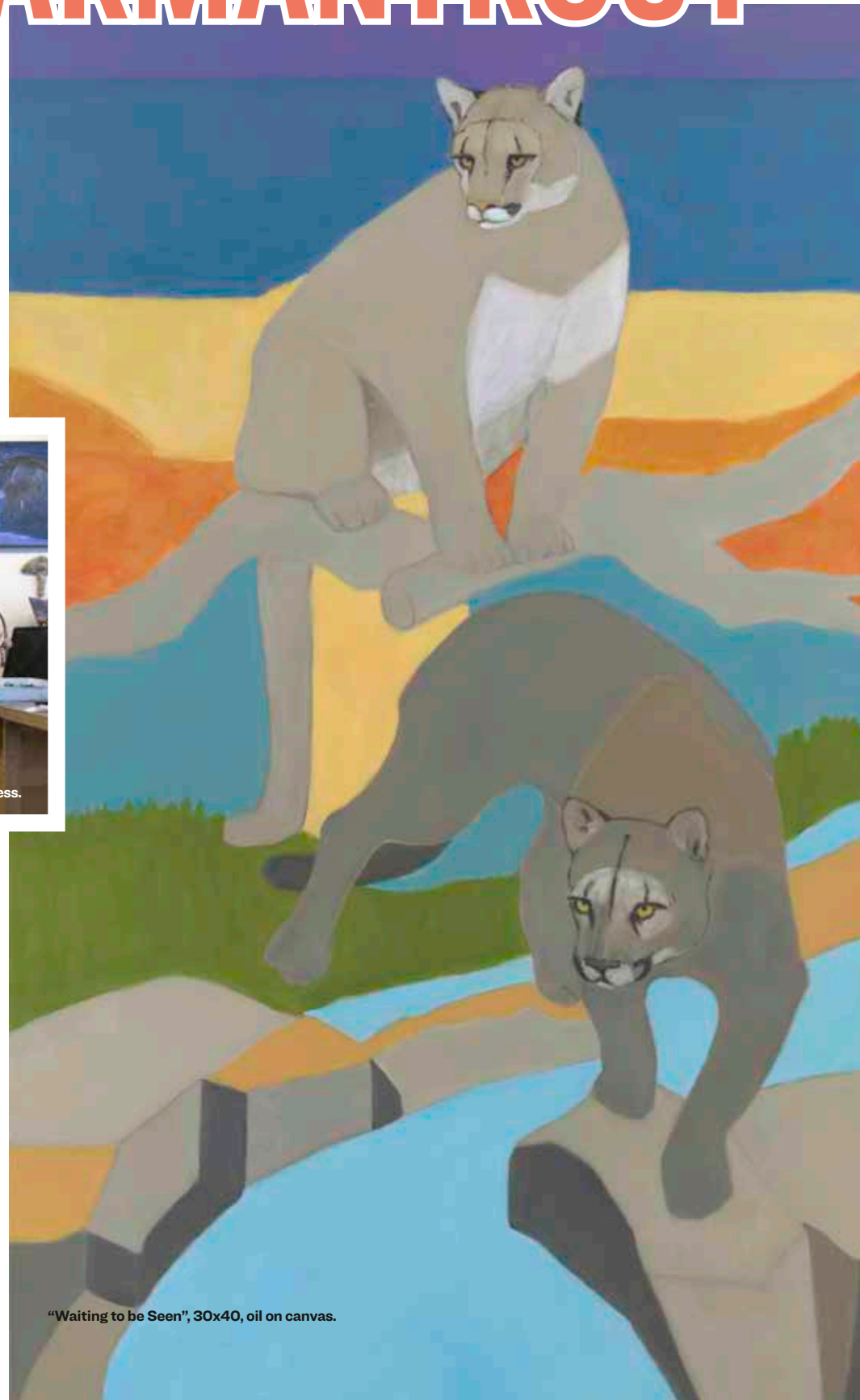
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# ARTIST LINDA ARMANTROUT

Soulful animal artist will be showing her work at Studio 59 during this year's Studio Tour.

BY LINDA ARMANTROUT



"Waiting to be Seen", 30x40, oil on canvas.

I am an oil painter using color, shape and gesture to express what is in my heart and to try to describe the divinity in all beings. This year has been a year of deepening my connection to source. It's also been a year of heightened productivity.

My painting process has been my search for clarity about life and transitions. I use animal images as mythical and mystical statements. Each day begins with grounding in silence and listening for guidance. I stand in the unknowingness, trying to point to something that is beyond what I know. This work is informed by myths, poetry, mysticism and meditation.



“

My painting “Wolf Moon” (on this month’s cover) was inspired by the first full moon of January, 2025. It rose on January 13th and was conjunct the planet Mars. The first full moon emphasizes renewal, emotional depth, and balance. The painting is 40x30 inches, oil on wrapped canvas. It will be for sale during the Studio Tour.

—LINDA



In 2019, Cynthia Bargman and I moved to Eldorado from Boulder. We chose Eldorado because of the reputation of the Eldorado Studio Tour, which is the biggest and best in New Mexico.

Of course, the charm of the community and homes, and the beauty of the landscape contributed heavily to the decision. Living and painting here I am inspired daily by the light, beauty, and wildlife. Eldorado has been the perfect place for my paintings to evolve and for my intuitive process to deepen.

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This year's annual Studio Tour will be the fifth time that Cynthia and I open our home gallery and my studio to the public. When a viewer has an experience with my paintings, I am thrilled to have shared a connection. We strive to create a lovely environment to support the paintings and rich conversations about art. Classical guitarist Roger Farwell will be playing in our courtyard on Sunday afternoon again this year. We are Studio 59 on the tour and hope you will join us.

For further information visit [ArmantroutStudio.com](http://ArmantroutStudio.com), which contains links to Instagram, my Youtube channel, and the New Mexico State Committee National Museum of Women in the Arts registry.



"Out of the Earth", 48x70, oil on unstretched canvas.

“

Speak to me ole wise ones!" The paintings of Linda Armantrout speak volumes of spirit, nature, ancestors, messengers and guides. Linda shares the power of the moment, the power of the animal, a harmony with the essence of life. Beautiful and inspired work.

—MARC CARYL



"Animal Spirits", 30x24, oil on unstretched canvas.



Earth & Spirit, 36x48, oil on canvas.



Linda's art journey includes a lifetime of learning. Her degree from UNC-Chapel Hill was followed by teachers whose lineage included Hans Hofmann and Charles Hawthorne.



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# THE 2025 ELDORADO STUDIO TOUR IS UPON US

*The Annual Artist Studio Tour is September 19th-21st and is a great opportunity to meet and support Eldorado's artists.*

JENNIE COOLEY

## STUDIO TOUR TIME!

Not just any studio tour—the Eldorado Studio Tour—and it's the thirty-third! It begins Friday evening with a preview gallery in the Eldorado Community Center. Each artist has one piece on display and will be present in person. Starting in 1993 with nine artist-residents, the program has grown this year to include 108 participating artists in 65 different studios. More importantly, “Eldorado Studio Tour” means arts, culture, community, and healthy economic development for the greater Eldorado area.

This year's President, **Debbie Parke**, gets calls from would-be residents verifying that a potential home is in the “tour” area. Parke will be showing her work—functional pieces in wood, including pens, bowls, and resin tables—in Studio 58. She prefers showing with other artists in a shared studio due to the increased foot traffic. This year, she will be showing with five other artists, attracting five times the shoppers!

“I've enjoyed being president,” she says. She's introduced the new Toureka app, which features a QR code along with extensive information and photographs about each artist, and is easy to use. The established website, [eldoradoarts.org](http://eldoradoarts.org), has also been updated to offer more about art opportunities in Eldorado.

Past President **Kim Crickard** showcases local artists in Artistic License, the community co-op gallery she established in January 2021. See her story about the gallery on pages **24 and 25**.

LampsnTime owners and steampunk aficionados **Rob and Teresa Reese** “love to dress up.” In top hats, tails, well-starched shirts, vests, and corsets, they bring smiles to their studio visitors. This will be their fourth tour, and visitors will be amazed at the scope of their creative lamps and curious work. Rob claims not to be an artist, despite being surrounded by some of the most inventive and sophisticated work—most of which lights up.

“I started making yard art years ago,” says the former Duluth resident. “People started asking for it, and it just grew into ‘LampsnTime,’ the couple's business.” He holds up a vegetable strainer hat that lights up and has a little windmill twirling on top. Other pieces include once-loved toasters, now transformed into creative RVs that have become night lights. There are hats and leather-worked belts with holsters that hold your favorite coffee cup. Teresa holds one up that she made, explaining that her favorite tool is a riveter.



Mosaic artist Jenifer Strachan



DEBBIE PARKE in her studio.



Spalted maple coffee table with deep sea blue mica Epoxy resin river by DEBBIE PARKE



Lamp by LampsnTime



LampsnTime: Rob and Teresa Reese

The couple also shows in Artistic License, as well as other galleries and steampunk shows and events. Their Studio, number 4 on the tour, is spacious, well-organized, and well-stocked. There is a ‘his’ workbench and, not far from it, ‘hers.’ It's almost too good to be true—until you discover a small trailer hidden outside, behind the garage, containing their future work, as well as about fifty-four broken musical instruments, including violins and brass instruments from a recent high school sale. “I love to see customers smile as they leave here carrying out a piece of our work like a treasure,” Teresa adds, smiling.

Clay artist and sculptor **Stephanie Levy** will be celebrating her eighth appearance on the tour, showcasing her jewelry and small sculptures, and will again be featured in Studio 58 alongside four other artists. Levy's work is shown and collected nationally and is often found in museum gift shops. She is known for her special faces—each a one-of-a-kind, handcrafted bead. These might depict a woman, child, man, kitten, or dog, with or without a hat. Sometimes it's both, as in her special dog/cat wine stoppers. Levy loves that her customers are often buying just for themselves.

Before choosing to make her home in Eldorado, Levy also checked to ensure the house was included in the tour. Her favorite tool is an “extruder” her father made. She presses clay through a silver tool to produce flat strips, which she then cuts into unique tiny beads.

Two new ideas and items will be included in this year's tour. Precious metal clay (with real silver), when finished, rivals the look of pure silver jewelry—picture a beautifully designed medallion that hangs strikingly from a natural black cord. Besides her jewelry, wine stoppers, and bobbleheads, there will be small sculptural works.

Now she is expanding her collection by introducing unique bands for the popular Apple Watch, in addition to her beaded watches and bands.

Not everyone is an experienced Studio Tour artist. **Jenifer Strachan** was intrigued when she saw

CONTINUED ►



“ELDORADO” in large letters on a road sign. She was sold when she learned about the tour. The first-time tour artist is excited to be part of this community. “Everyone is so welcoming,” she explains.

Strachan, a self-taught mosaic artist, moved here in April from Martha’s Vineyard. This might explain her first project—an outdoor shower she just finished building—as everyone in the Vineyard is just coming back from the beach. Her impressive portfolio shows her range of work, from large external murals to small, thoughtful interior wall pieces and colorful tables. Pages are filled with commissions, impressive grants, and numerous awards documenting the work of a lifelong artist. “Each piece in my mosaics is special and chosen for a reason,” she says, pointing to the image of a breaking wave in tiny blue and white porcelain pieces.

Not a newcomer to the art scene, Jenifer has shown her work in galleries in Florida and New Orleans. “I’m excited to be here, part of this group. I’m hoping to make new friends and meet people who understand my work.”

Need another reason to shop for art? The Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association (EACA) gives back! They participate in the Fourth of July and Earth Day Celebrations, offer free classes at the library, and have donated one hundred thousand dollars to local causes such as the Fire Department, the school, and the 285 Recycles group.

Editor’s Note: Eldorado Living, dba *Greet Eldorado*, is once again a proud sponsor of this annual event.

**TIPS FOR ATTENDING STUDIOS**

As a seasoned studio tour attendee, I can help you out.

My first studio tour was overwhelming and we tried to do WAY too much and absolutely exhausting. My advice? Go to the Preview on Friday night. Combined with studying the tour brochure and website you’ll be able to prioritize your favs. 3-4 visits each day are the max for us, as it allows time to visit with the artists. It’s not a race. Hope this helps.

*Margo*



STEPHANIE LEVY’s art.



Clay artist Stephanie Levy



American artist and author, Jennie Cooley is currently showing her work at El Museo in the Railyard on Saturdays.

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## JENNIE COOLEY TODAY

*Artist Jennie Cooley updates us on her recent work and a look at her retail space at El Museo.*

JENNIE COOLEY

**Editor's Note:** Jennie graciously authored the article about this year's Studio Tour, so I thought you ought to know more about her art.

It's my year of Pee Wee Hermans, toy phones, and coyotes—anything that makes collectors smile! As a lifelong artist, I have created years' worth of art, working in various media, using adjectives and curious objects to tell a story, as well as pithy, misspelled words. Lesson learned: not everything sells! Starting in Santa Fe thirty-plus years ago, with Crazy Jack's flea market out by the opera, plaza shows, studio tours, Recycle Santa Fe, national shows, a museum show, and best of all, having my own gallery on Canyon Road.

Currently, my "Roadside Attraction" booth, just over the tracks in El Museo at the Santa Fe Rail yard, is working, but it prevents me from opening my home studio during this year's Eldorado tour.

Sterling silver salt and pepper jewelry, original typewriter erasers, and nostalgic works like a "Bad Dream Catcher" and a toy phone that lets you talk to God draw locals and visitors to my comfortable space.



Regular collectors are still welcome to my Eldorado studio, by appointment. There, they are likely to see five-foot Venetian plaster trees in progress or some celebrity shoe dolls for this year's Recycle show.

A new piece, just started, is "Boy Tree." I have favorite trees all over town. This is my Honey Locust in the Railyard. I'd never seen one until I moved here thirty-five years ago. Puzzled, I kept picking up the long, hard pods and wondering why no one else was! It will be finished as a tree possibly running down the tracks, escaping from George R.R. Martin's dragon train full of waving tourists.

Finished is "Smiling Coyotes" with a warning to cat owners. In Eldorado, we recommend that newcomers keep their cats inside. They claim, "My cat is different!" No, it's not, and we soon see missing cat signs on most posts around our homes.

Best surprise—as a recycle artist—I often return home or that new booth to find curious and once-precious, now-broken things. Sometimes they are questionable, but sometimes they are great! I've come home to find a handmade violin, bustiers, already-loved dolls, neon signs with flashing lights, and once, over a thousand used (some still damp) Nespresso coffee capsules. Donors often explain, "It's time for a long-ago treasured toy to move on."

Shopping, not showing, I won't miss out on the tour this year. With my tour map in hand, I'll visit my favorites and a few new studios. Then I'll start planning for next year with the stuff on the porch, as neighbors and friends downsize or clean out for fall.



American artist and author, Jennie Cooley is a Santa Fe legend. Stop by El Museo on Saturdays in the Railyard to meet her and see her work first hand.



Joe Arellano, Owner

## ROOFING EXPERTS



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# Keeping Up With All Our New(ish) Menu Options

BY BRYAN TAGAS

*We recently profiled each of the Eldorado eateries that opened this summer, but we thought it was time for us take another look at the several food purveyors who opened in our community over the past year and see what’s cooking. We asked the owners of each of them some basic questions about their operations, the answers to which we assumed our readers would want to know:*

## Crepas-Oh!

Opened March 2025  
Fernando Cuevas, Owner

**What do you have to say, if anything, about how the residents of Eldorado have received the dining experience and the cuisine you offer?**

One thing we can say about Eldorado is that the community has been incredibly welcoming—without a doubt, the closest thing a restaurant can have to family. Having three locations means we see people from all kinds of backgrounds, but I can honestly say there’s no place with a warmer, more tight-knit community than Eldorado.

**Since you opened, have you made any adjustments (hours, food items, etc.) as a result of responding to the input of your patrons?**

The biggest changes we’ve made are our updated hours and new breakfast items. We’re now open earlier but also close a bit earlier—from 9 AM to 3 PM every day, except Tuesdays when we’re closed. As for the menu, we’ve added some signature dishes like our Chilaquiles (homemade corn tortilla chips smothered in your choice of salsa and served with a side of potatoes), our Bacon Green Chile Egg Sandwich, and our special *Dulce de Leche* French Toast.

**What have proven to be the most popular items on your menu?**

Without a doubt, the Chicken Florentine Crepe hooks you from the first bite, sparking an uncontrollable craving that keeps people coming back for their next fix. It’s easily our most popular item on the menu. Right behind it is the Breakfast Crepe—nearly the size of two burritos in one, and just as filling. And last but not least, our Blue Lemon Crepe blends sweet with just a hint of tangy citrus, making it the one item everyone tries at least once.



Crepas-Oh!:  
Crepe Deluxe



Crepas-Oh!:  
Dessert Crepe

We would be remiss not to mention **Carmelita’s** in The Agora, which long predates all of the other take-out places in Eldorado proper. It continues to be the go-to place for burgers, gyros, greek salads, tuna melts and other mouth-watering fare.

## Fusion Tacos

Opened June 2024  
Daniel Lopez, Owner

**What do you have to say, if anything, about how the residents of Eldorado have received the dining experience and the cuisine you offer?**

The Eldorado community has been incredibly welcoming and supportive from the very beginning. We’ve received so many kind words and thoughtful feedback from locals who appreciate both the atmosphere and the food. It’s clear that people here value quality and connection, and we’re grateful to be part of a community that celebrates that.

**Since you opened, have you made any adjustments (hours, food items, etc.) as a result of responding to the input of your patrons?**

Absolutely. We’ve made a number of small but meaningful adjustments based on what we’ve heard from our guests. We listen, and community input plays a big role in how we evolve.

**What have proven to be the most popular items on your menu?**

Our Quesa Birria tacos have definitely become a fan favorite in Eldorado! People come back for it again and again. The Green Chile Bacon Cheeseburger is another top pick, especially for those looking for something hearty and comforting. Our carne Asada Fries has a loyal following too, and of course, we can’t forget an honorable mention for our delicious *Tres Leches* Cake!



Fusion Tacos: Quesabirrias



Fusion Tacos: Taco Pack

## Taste of Maggie’s Cocina

Opened September 2024  
Maggie Montoya, Chef/Proprietor

**What do you have to say, if anything, about how the residents of Eldorado have received the dining experience and the cuisine you offer?**

The residents are great. I have many repeat, loyal customers that enjoy my offerings. Last year I did a couple of catering events which were great!

**Since you opened, have you made any adjustments (hours, food items, etc.) as a result of responding to the input of your patrons?**

Yes, both menu and hours. I want to apologize for changing hours a couple of times, but we wanted to see what will work the best. The six o’clock closing did not work out, as most of the business we do at lunchtime. This is our first year, so we are trying to see what will work best for our patrons and ourselves. It’s very difficult during winter months, so that’s why we will probably close in January and February next year, just for the Winter.

**What have proven to be the most popular items on your menu?**

The Pierogi (we offer several choices of filling and toppings, bacon or caramelized onions or both), the Cubano sandwich, and the Gulasz (beef stew that we serve with mashed potatoes and choice of red cabbage salad or horseradish beets). Barszcz (red beets soup served with mashed potatoes and a hard-boiled egg) is also popular.



Maggie’s Cocina: Pierogi



Maggie’s Cocina: Barszcz



Maggie’s Cocina: Cubano





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# TALES AND TIPS FROM THE FRONT

LISA SMITH, RESIDENT REALTOR

This month, I wanted to share some of the unusual situations I and other agents have encountered so far this year. Most of these occurred in Eldorado, while others took place in Santa Fe County.

One seller, who had drastically overpriced his property, forbade multiple buyers from inspecting certain parts of the home. The home is now off the market. Pro tip: make the necessary repairs rather than obviously hiding something from potential buyers.

Another seller rejected four full-price offers because they did not want to pay the buyer’s agent’s commission. Under the new rules, commissions are negotiable for both listing and selling agents. This change has had very little—if any—impact on buyers and sellers in Santa Fe. Historically, buyers have never paid their agent’s commission, and they are not eager to start doing so now. The seller eventually learned their lesson. When the fifth offer came in, they paid the full 3% buyer’s commission.

One buyer terminated two transactions in a row because of inspection issues. Our buyers often skew older and typically do not want to take on a home with significant deferred maintenance. Buyers are still walking away from transactions based on inspection results. If you are planning to list your home, consider getting a pre-listing inspection and addressing

most—if not all—of the items. You’ll have a much better chance of making it to the closing table.

Our home inspection paperwork has changed in the last few months, making it easier for buyers to terminate a transaction. Rather than going through a full inspection, a buyer can now simply check a box called “Buyer’s Observations” and walk away with a full refund of their earnest money. For already skittish buyers, this has become a quick and inexpensive way to back out of a deal.

Lastly, a couple walked away from a beautiful home because of a pack rat in the center flowerbed of the driveway and in the vacant lot next door. Small issues can quickly become big ones—address whatever you can in advance to help ensure a smooth and successful transaction.




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# Artistic License Gallery

Artist co-op gallery at the Agora heads into its fourth year with a group of 22 local artists.

KIM CRICKARD



We began this artistic journey after doing a pop-up show for the last week of December 2020. It seemed like opening a co-op gallery would be perfect for this community because there are so many amazing artists here in Santa Fe, and specifically Eldorado. My hope was that it would give local (and regional) artists the opportunity to show and sell their work right here in this area. There was nothing like it, so we dove in and started the gallery. Opening Artistic License had never been something I saw in my future, having been a union-trained electrician for 30 years; but all seemed to fall into place, leading us to throw caution to the wind and create our little gallery even as COVID was winding down.

We wanted to make art shown here available at reasonable prices, so the commission we charge artists is only 20% on

sales instead of the typical 50–60% that most artists deal with in other galleries. We have happy artists and happy customers (Yay!). What profits we make go right back into the gallery, as we weren't in this to make a financial windfall. We were in it for the art and its ability to enhance the culture of Eldorado. A big thanks goes out to both our new and loyal customers!

We envisioned a gallery that would be a cultural hub for Eldorado. We have excellent painters as well as crafts, folk art, glass art, woven ponchos, ceramics, weaving, scratchboard art, wood pens and cutting boards, pastels, prints, sewn items (pot holders, kitchen boas, totes, etc.), jewelry, and Steampunk items. We also have a terrific selection of greeting cards. Everything is handmade and original.

Our artists are amazing, and everyone is, as our name implies, cooperative. We feature artists monthly, and this month



we are celebrating and promoting The Eldorado Studio Tour. Artists in the Tour who also are showing in our gallery will be highlighted with blue ribbons that indicate which studio they are showing in, should you see their art and want to see more.

We're presently setting up dates for various events, so join our mailing list to receive a monthly newsletter, or just check out our events chalkboard for holiday celebrations, classes, outdoor plein air painting, demonstrations, etc. You can also check our website and, if interested, get a packet of information about joining us ([ArtisticLicenseGallery.com](http://ArtisticLicenseGallery.com)).

We hope you'll come in and peruse the gallery. There's a lot to see, and we think you'll be pleased with our little gem and its artistic expressions.

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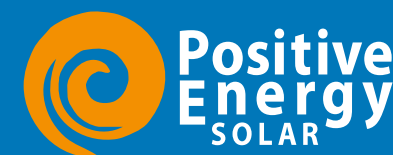


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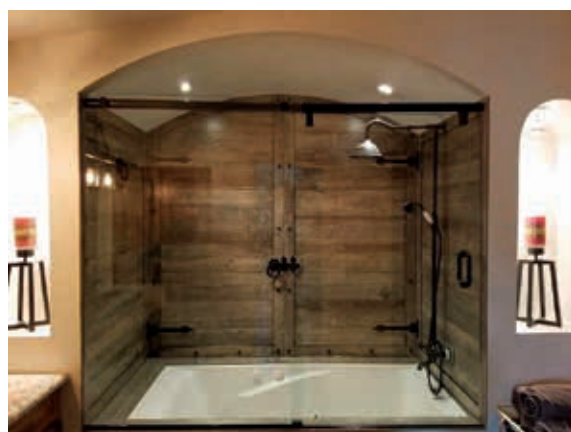
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# INTEGRATIVE CHIROPRACTIC: Reconnecting to the Source of Healing

*Eldorado’s Dr. Peter Fisk and his wife Dr. Tara White are an experienced chiropractic team who draw on the best practices to help their patients heal.*

DR. TARA WHITE, DC

Whole-being health care piqued Peter Fisk’s interest while studying at St. John’s College in the 1970s. He innately knew Descartes’s famous statement, “I think, therefore I am,” wasn’t the whole story. Following this insight, Fisk attended Scherer’s Academy of Natural Healing and Southwestern College, attaining a BA in transformational studies.

Fisk’s personal healing journey began when he returned home to San Francisco and a car accident left him with unrelenting headaches and arm numbness. With no relief for months, he awoke with a sense that “there must be something better than this” and recalled his instructor at Scherer’s talking about chiropractic. Within three weeks of starting chiropractic care, all his symptoms resolved. This astounding experience led him to earn his doctoral degree at Life Chiropractic College West in 1991.

“The tenet—‘To give, do, love, and serve’—is written across the walls at Life West, and this spoke to my soul,” says Dr. Fisk.

For twenty years, Dr. Fisk practiced in Perugia, Italy; San Francisco,

California; and Fort Collins, Colorado, while teaching throughout the United States and Europe. He returned to Santa Fe ten years ago with his wife, Dr. Tara White, a chiropractor and intuitive healer, and their two younger children.

“I appreciate reconnecting with Santa Fe. It’s the cornerstone of my integrated education in mind, body, and spirit. I feel honored to give back where I was taught.”

Dr. Fisk began Integrative Chiropractic in 2015. “It combines the best practices of 30 years of experience,” he says. “It couples a light-touch method of chiropractic, cueing the brain to make changes in posture, tension, and tone of the spine, while measuring progress through X-ray, posture, and functional testing. Patients learn their bodies have the power to heal; they can access this intelligence and influence it.”

“I have found in every community we’ve lived in that people want to be met where they are, find the core of their health issues, become pain-free, and enjoy their lives,” says Dr. Fisk. “It’s the most inspiring thing when my patients

tell me they took a hike again after barely being able to walk in my door!”

Living in Eldorado for the past three years, Drs. Fisk and White are set to enjoy their newly empty nest. You’ll see them hiking the trails and dancing on the plaza while remaining a resource for this community to live happier, healthier, and more connected lives.

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Dr. Tara White is a chiropractor, intuitive healer and co-owner of Integrative Chiropractic.

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# JEN TOUGH GALLERY

*Eldorado area gallery offers a sanctuary for contemporary art and community under the experienced guidance of Jen Tough.*

BY JEN TOUGH



Gallery Opening. Photo: DESCRIBE THE FAUNA

Located at 4 N Chamisa Drive, at the intersection of Highway 285 and Alma Drive and just across the road from Eldorado, Jen Tough Gallery has rapidly established itself as a vibrant hub for contemporary art. Since its grand opening in May 2023, the gallery has been a welcoming beacon for artists and collectors alike, showcasing a thoughtfully curated mix of local, national, and international contemporary artists.

## From Bay Area Beginnings to Santa Fe's Artistic Landscape

Jen Tough Gallery's story begins in 2017 in the San Francisco Bay Area, where founder Jen Tough built a reputation for championing contemporary artists with compelling voices and visions, yet frequently overlooked due to age or gender. Seeking to deepen her connection

to Santa Fe's rich art scene, Tough moved into a downtown Santa Fe location scheduled to open in April 2020. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 shutdown forced a halt just two weeks before opening, and the landlord's refusal to collaborate left the gallery in limbo—and without a space.

Undeterred, Tough pivoted online for the next two years, creating an online artist community and selling via social media. In 2022, she and her partner Todd Hemsley discovered a space that perfectly matched their vision for an inviting, light-filled gallery and residency space. It was another “COVID casualty”: an office building. The pair quickly got to work transforming the space. Opening in May 2023, Jen Tough Gallery quickly became more than a venue—it became a creative home for artists and the community.



Gallery interior. Photo: DESCRIBE THE FAUNA

## A Community of Artists and Residencies

Central to the gallery's mission is fostering a supportive community of artists. Beyond exhibitions, Jen Tough Gallery offers artist residencies that invite visual artists from across the country to work and develop their practices without the distraction of daily life. Each resident artist is included in an exhibition the following year, allowing visitors a glimpse into diverse creative processes and fresh perspectives. “We love meeting artists from all over, learning about their practice and connecting,” says Tough.

## Art with Purpose: Benefit Exhibitions That Matter

Jen Tough Gallery stands out for its commitment to art that advocates for causes close to the heart. In July 2024, the gallery hosted a benefit exhibition for Save the Chimps, shining a spotlight on the chimpanzees held at the Alamogordo Air Force Base. These chimpanzees, retired from research but still awaiting sanctuary, were given renewed attention through the exhibition.

Building on this legacy, the gallery's current benefit exhibition is WILD, running through September 28th. This show is designed to raise awareness and funds to protect America's natural wild spaces, many of which face unprecedented threats from the current administration. All gallery proceeds from WILD will go to an

environmental organization dedicated to preserving these invaluable landscapes, while artists will retain their commissions.

## Resilience Amid Challenges

The gallery's journey has been marked by resilience. In January 2025, when freezing temperatures caused the fire suppression system pipes to burst, the gallery, studios, and other shared spaces flooded. The damage forced the gallery to close for six months to undertake extensive repairs. “It was difficult,” Tough reflects, “but the support from the community and our artists helped us come back stronger.”

## Looking Ahead: Upcoming Shows and Gallery Information

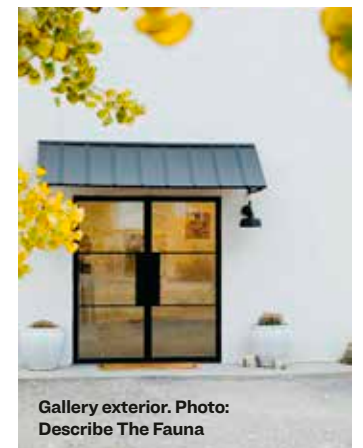
Following WILD, the gallery will present Collect Them All, a salon-style exhibition featuring small works and prints. The opening reception is scheduled for Saturday, October 11, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., with the show on view through December 21. This exhibition offers visitors a chance to explore artworks in a lively, accessible format—perfect for collectors and art lovers alike, and just in time for the holidays. A call for entry will be posted soon on Instagram.

## A Space for Connection and Creativity

Jen Tough Gallery is more than a gallery—it's a community hub where art and advocacy intertwine, where

Jen Tough is the Pied Piper of art, connecting a nexus of discerning and savvy collectors with artists they'd easily miss.

—TT



Gallery exterior. Photo: Describe The Fauna

resilience fuels creativity, and where every visitor can experience the power of contemporary art to inspire, challenge, and unite. Whether you're a longtime collector, a curious first-timer, or an artist seeking a supportive home, this Eldorado gem invites you to be part of its evolving story.

**Jen Tough Gallery welcomes visitors Fridays through Sundays, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or by appointment anytime. For more information, inquiries, or to schedule a visit, email [info@JenTough.gallery](mailto:info@JenTough.gallery) or call (505) 718-1957.**

**Editor's Note:** We just had to ask Jen, as an experienced gallery owner, what she thinks about Santa Fe's art market. Here's what she said:

“I believe social media—particularly Instagram—has dramatically transformed gallery sales. Today, collectors can discover and purchase artwork directly from artists, breaking down many of the traditional barriers between creators and buyers. This shift has been incredibly empowering for artists, and I truly think there's never been a better time to be one. Even art fairs, which once exclusively invited galleries, are now opening their doors to individual artists. Rather than resist this change, I've chosen to embrace it and grow with it.

CONTINUED ►



My passion for the artist's creative process and mentoring has led me to focus on our residency program and the gallery's artist collective, which has become a core focus of our programming. I love meeting artists from all over the world, who want to come and create in Santa Fe through our residency program. The gallery collective for 2025 is a group of ten female artists who work with me for 6-months, culminating in exhibiting the work created during this period at the LA Art Show this January.

I've also noticed that galleries, fairs, and exhibitions are increasingly viewed as experiences for the public—forms of cultural engagement—rather than shopping. While our gallery sees only a fraction of the foot traffic of Canyon Road, I view this as a positive. Visitors arrive with intention, and our space has become a community hub where neighbors and friends gather through art. Plus, without the huge overhead that Canyon Road has, we're free to exhibit what we want—even the more

Artist at work. Photo: DESCRIBE THE FAUNA



challenging stuff—with less pressure for sales. Though some folks who don't know our area well may describe our location as 'in the middle of nowhere,' I see our space as emblematic of today's evolving art world: a gallery that prioritizes connection, creativity, and community."



Jen Tough: Merging fine art & brand culture—gallery owner, ex-Art Director; Nike, Drew Carey, Warner Music, Urban Outfitters.



# THE EL DORADO FIRE RESCUE ANNUAL BBQ IS COMING!

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MARGO SPELLMAN, ARTIST, EDITOR, AND EFR FAN.



**IF YOU'RE NEW** to the greater Eldorado area, you may not know about one of our neighborhood's best community events—the annual Fire Rescue BBQ, which will be held on Saturday, September 27th, from 12–3. It features food—served from 12–2—entertainment, and a chance to learn more about the department.

There's "always" been a community open house hosted by the fire department—well, OK—for at least the last 15 years. A pancake breakfast morphed into a BBQ, and the concept has stuck. This is no small feat for a group of volunteers—850–900 folks typically attend, and a core group of three volunteers manage the event with the entire team helping on the day of, and, of course, for clean-up.

Besides the BBQ, the event is all about the fire trucks. The community can see the fire trucks up close, get pictures with the trucks, and even sit in them!

According to member Jose Hernandez, the event is also a huge recruiting venue for the department, which is 100% volunteer with members from the Eldorado/Lamy areas. Jose says: "Let's face it, it's less intimidating to talk to us at an event and get a 'feel' for us—what we do and how we serve the public—than walking into our main station on a Saturday!"

Jose sums it up like this: "Our annual BBQ event is really a big thank you to the community. It's an opportunity for us to meet people not on the worst day of their lives—the call to 911—but to hear some great follow-up stories from people whom

we helped. We also hear from other volunteer groups and from retired career firefighters who might enjoy responding in a truck again. It's about meeting our neighbors and providing a public service in conjunction with the regional career crews that serve the Eastern Region of Santa Fe County. It's about learning new skills and making new friends. And, as someone said, wearing cool helmets!"

## THE SKINNY ON EFR ANNUAL BBQ

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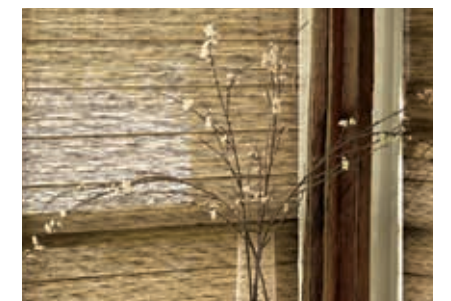


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# NEWS BITES

What's Happening in the Neighborhood?

MARGO SPELLMAN



**EARLY ALERT: LIBRARY'S OKTOBERFEST OCTOBER 11TH**  
Bier, Bratwurst, Festmusik und Trivia-Spiel (with door prizes) are coming to Santa Fe Brewing's Eldorado Taphouse on Saturday, October 11th from 3–6 pm.

Tickets for the VGPL fundraiser are \$20, which includes admission, two drinks (wine, beer, or soda), and all the trivia you desire. Brats are just \$5 each, cooked up by the wonderful Café Fine. There will be polka music, of course, and an occasional spotting of lederhosen.

**REALLY EARLY ALERT: LIBRARY'S FALL BOOK SALE**

If you're a bibliophile, do save the dates of one of the most popular

community events of the year. Vista Grande Public Library's 3-day Fall Book Sale runs Thursday, November 6th through Saturday, November 8th. It features two favorite events: Thursday's Early Bird Entry and Saturday's \$10-a-Bag sale.

#### Sale hours:

- November 6th: 9 – 10am, \$25 EARLY BIRD ENTRY. Great for booksellers and anyone wanting early shopping.
- November 6 & 7: 10 – 6, free entry.
- Nov. 8, Saturday: 10 – 3, \$10-A-BAG SALE, free entry. We supply the bag! (Specially priced items excluded.)



#### CHRIS CASHIOLA IS THE LIBRARY'S FEATURED 2D ARTIST SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

The European Impressionist and Post-Impressionist painters have the most influence upon Chris's work. Claude Monet said, "When you go out to paint, try to forget what objects you have in front of you—a tree, a field... Merely think: here is a little square of blue, here an oblong of pink, here a streak of yellow, and paint it just as it looks to you—the exact color and shape—until it gives your own impression of the scene." Chris follows this advice when he paints. Over the last ten years, Chris has concentrated on his work in oil painting. His love for nature fuels his passion for landscape painting, and his work expresses his feelings for the beauty of the natural world around us.



The Center For  
Soulful Living

#### CENTER FOR SOULFUL LIVING OFFERS HEART-CENTERED COUNSELING

Robert Sardello and his partner Mary Jane Hooper-Sardello have just opened their Center for Soulful Living at 3 Caliente Road, Suite 10. They offer marriage and family therapy, individual counseling and meditation practices rooted in spiritual wisdom and awakened heart awareness.

For details, visit their website: [www.TheCenterforSoulfulLiving.com](http://www.TheCenterforSoulfulLiving.com), email [MaryJaneHooper@aol.com](mailto:MaryJaneHooper@aol.com) or phone her at 817.348.3222.

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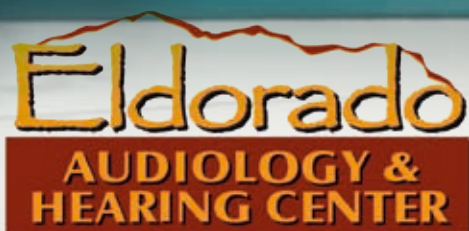
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Greet Eldorado 39



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