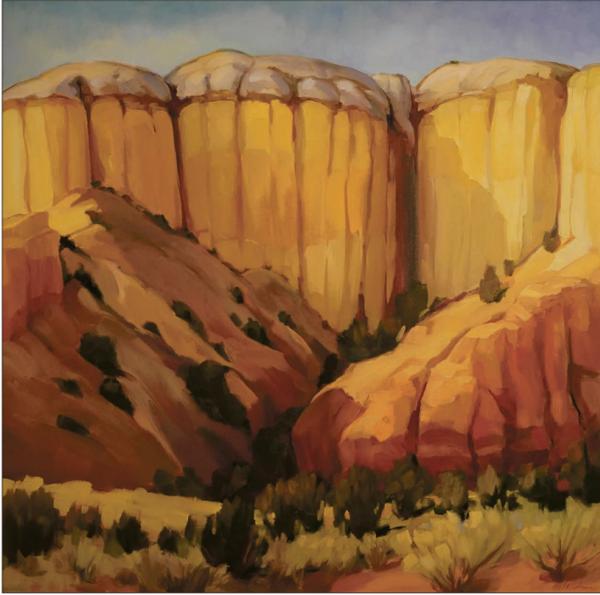


RIO GRANDE SUN

Arts

07.22.21

Bettina Steinke Studio Group - '7 Visions of the West'



Marcia Williams - Jurassic Rocks



Lee Macleod - Chama River Overlook



Nancy J. Davis - Chimney Rock

Marcia Williams is a member of the **Bettina Steinke Studio Group**.

"For years I did medical illustrations picturing cells and surgical procedures," Williams said as she gazed north toward the hills north of Abiquiú. "With landscapes I don't have to do arteries and veins, I can do whatever I want, with whatever colors I want."

"(Having done medical illustration) helps me with my landscapes," Williams continued. "When you go out and paint the trees, the next time you see a tree I might see more colors in it or I see more of the 'structure' of the landscape."

"I think my history in medical illustration helps with my landscape painting because I had to look at things very closely," Williams added. "Now (she said with a laugh) I don't have to paint within the lines."

Williams integrated her artistic skills with love of science into a professional career as a medical illustrator in the Boston area for over 30 years. With the move several years ago to New Mexico, Williams has been transitioning from digitally produced images of surgical procedures to looser, more expressive oil painting. Her anatomy background informs her love of figure and portrait painting, but the expansive Southwest landscape is now a major inspiration.

Painting outdoors and becoming lost in the scene to produce a personal interpretation has deepened her appreciation of the world outside the studio.

A number of members of the Bettina Steinke Studio Group

Kate Smith and Rudy Vallee. This was followed by her drawing illustrations for a souvenir book of the NBC Symphony Orchestra that included over 100 of her sketches, including Arturo Toscanini.

In 1939 Steinke left NBC and was commissioned by American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers to draw portraits of some of its members including Jerome Kern. During World War II she painted portraits of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Douglas MacArthur and Dwight D. Eisenhower.

In 1946 she married photojournalist Don Blair and they spent the next decade traveling the world during which time she produced work for Standard Oil and the Hudson's Bay Company. In 1956 the couple settled in Taos, moving to Santa Fe 15 years later.

In 1995, the National Cowboy Hall of Fame hosted a major retrospective of Steinke's career and she was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award. In 1996, Steinke was awarded the John Singer Sargent Award for Lifetime Achievement by the Society of Portrait Artists. Her work can be found in the collections of the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center, Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art, Philbrook Museum of Art and the Fort Worth Art Museum.

Steinke mentored artists, including Ned Jacob who in turn influenced Santa Fe artists Bill Gallen and Dave Ballew. Bettina passed away in 1999, but her studio has remained an active workplace for artists in Santa Fe due to the support and patronage of artist Paul Van Munching.

The Abiquiú Inn show exhibits works featuring seven interpretations of the western landscape, which so profoundly influenced the art of Bettina Steinke and other important New Mexican painters.

Wanting to convey the value she places on unspoiled nature, **Nancy J. Davis** focuses on expressive brushwork and rich color. Davis was raised on a New Mexico cattle ranch and has spent much of her life on horseback. Landscape, animals and the people who work the land continue to be her favorite subjects. She is a member of the New Mexico Watercolor Society, Oil Painters of America, Plein Air Painters of New Mexico, Portrait Society of New Mexico and Plein Air Friends.

Paula Devereaux is a renowned Southwestern artist based in Santa Fe and Rancho Escondido de Chama. She is known for her figurative sculpture and portraits of Native Americans and cowboys. In a career spanning 35 plus years, Devereaux has mastered a variety of artistic media, including wood carving, cast bronze sculpture and oil painting. In the last few years, she has focused on painting images of the Southwestern landscape. Devereaux studied fine art at the University of Texas, El Paso.

Ann Jenemann, when asked about the appeal of painting landscapes, said, "Just being out here and not thinking about anything else but the land, which is usually beautiful. It's kinda selfish, but whatever works, right? It's good for the soul."

"Most of the time I don't come back with anything great, but I love the experience. A lot of people can finish a painting out here, but I'm not one of them — that's not my nature."

"It's really meditative," she added.

After 10 years working for a major corporation in market research and public relations, Jen-

emann quit her job to pursue her first love, art. She then received a degree in drawing and painting from the University of Cincinnati and began showing her landscape paintings in galleries immediately after graduating. She recently moved to Northern New Mexico after spending seven years in a small Colorado mountain town to focus on painting the Western landscape. She is a member of Plein Air Painters of New Mexico and the Outdoor Painters Society.

Lee Macleod attended Colorado College and Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, Calif., He began his art career as an illustrator. In 1993, Macleod moved to Northern New Mexico to focus his skills on landscape painting. He is a member of the California Art Club, Oil Painters Of America, Plein Air Painters Of New Mexico, Plein Air Artists Of Colorado and the Laguna Plein Air Painters Association. He has exhibited in the juried national shows of all of these organizations.

"Most of the time I'll go out with the hope of doing a finished painting," **Cecilia Robertson** said. "Sometimes they come together, sometimes they don't — maybe two times out of 10 I do get a finished painting."

"There are times when the weather is the most changeable, which is also often the most interesting moments — on the verge of a storm — that will be the intention of a sketch. Almost like color notes, not even worrying too much about form."

"Those times are exciting but also so fleeting," Robertson added. "It's nice if you can get some good color notes."

Looking at the small work on her easel, it does look as if she is going for a finished painting opposed to the "sketches" that others in the group are working on. The sketches will then provide a point for the artists to work on a more formal piece when they return to their studios. "

Robertson, a westerner by birth, has lived in Wyoming, Colorado, Louisiana and Texas, and now calls Northern New Mexico home. She began her art career in 1992 studying the western landscape and its inhabitants. She often paints on location to experience nature first hand. Robertson considers nature's presence to be a source of wholeness and healing needed by all.

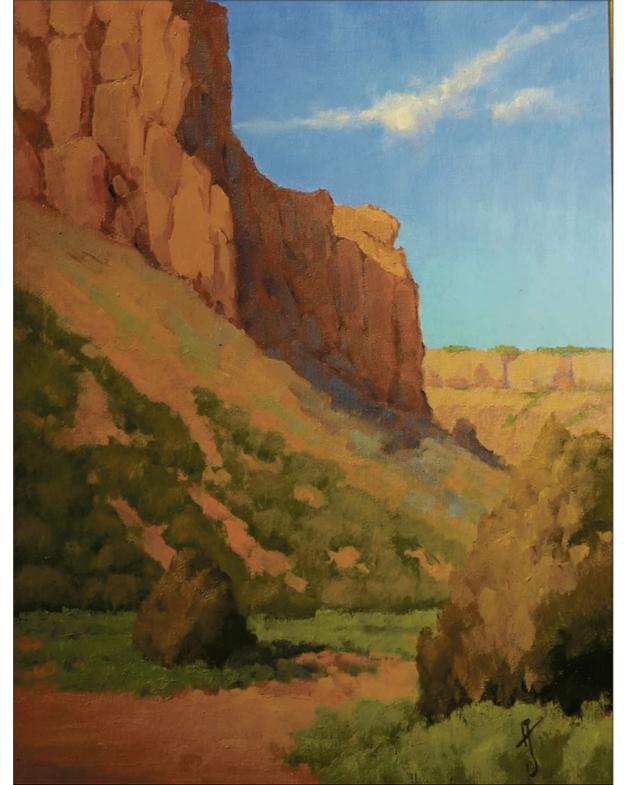
A native of Illinois, **K. Shway** initially trained at the American Academy of Art in Chicago. As a student, her studies focused on drawing and painting the figure.

"It was a time when you had to learn the basics well," Shway said.

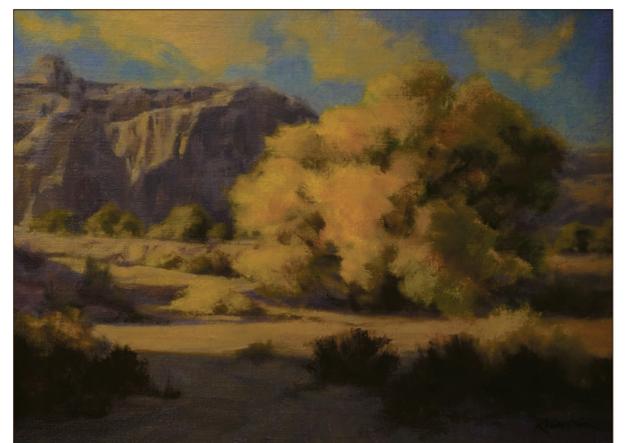
"Shway has always painted outdoors, but began a concentrated study of landscape painting after relocating to the Southwest in 2006.

Essentials

What: 7 Visions of the West: landscape paintings by members of the Bettina Steinke Studio Group
Where: Abiquiú Inn 21120 US 84, Abiquiú
When: Through Sept. 30. An opening reception with the artists will be held 4:30 to about 6 p.m., July 29
Note: Artists from the group will be painting on location at various times during the duration of the exhibit. Their next scheduled date for location painting is July 24



Ann Jenemann - Diablo (above) • Taking a break from location painting (below)



Cecilia Robertson - Solitary Splendor (above) • Robertson at her easel (below)

