



December 2024

# NEWSLETTER

Membership Renewal \* Voting in December \* Studio Tour Analysis \* VGPL Art Exhibit \* Notes from the Field

## UPCOMING

**Membership renewal in January.** See article on this page.

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**Annual election of EACA officers and By-Laws update,** Page 2.

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**Treasurer's Report,** pages 2-3.

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**Analysis of Studio Tour survey results,** pages 4-6.

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**EACA Planning Calendar,** page 9.

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**Exhibits and Other Art Activity,** pages 6-7.

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### **Artists' Resources**

Look on pages 7 and 8 for resources, including calls for entry to exhibits in the general region, and opportunities to apply for artists' residencies.

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### **Newsletter Submissions:**

The next EACA Newsletter will be published in February. Please have any submissions to editor Sam Elkind by January 15 (email: [sselkind@comcast.net](mailto:sselkind@comcast.net)).

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Evie Gauthier

December is election month for the EACA. The way the association is structured establishes five Executive Officers who are elected by the members. Those positions are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Communications. The President then appoints the various committee chairs and project chairs.

Each year we also review our By-Laws and submit for a vote any changes deemed necessary. Our elections are done electronically, online, and results determined by the majority of those members voting. You will soon be receiving your electronic ballot, if you haven't already.

Our candidates for office are Chuck Boxwell for President; Julie Hill for Vice President; Rhea Lowell for Secretary; Nan Patmont for Treasurer; and Adrian Skiles for Communications. Thank you to these five members who are offering to step into leadership roles for the EACA. All except Nan are new to these positions; and we thank our lucky stars that Nan is available to continue as Treasurer (as well as managing our website).

*(Continued on page 4...)*

## **Membership Renewal**

January is the month for renewal of EACA membership. It is important that the association receive its renewals at the start of the year, so that it can be confident of its membership rolls. With these renewals, the association can budget accurately for the year and have a clear list of members eligible for voting and other membership-related services.

Membership in EACA is a precondition for participation in the annual Studio Tour or either the spring or fall art shows held at the ECIA.

To renew, use the link at the bottom of the [home page](#) of EACA's website, [www.eldoradoarts.org](http://www.eldoradoarts.org). A direct link to the membership renewal page is [here](#). Note: Be sure to complete the process. Every paid member will receive an email confirmation. If you not receive such a confirmation, the process was not completed. (If a confirmation is missing, check your Junk email folder; the email might have gone there.)

People who do not renew membership by February 15 will be assumed to have allowed their membership to lapse. They will be removed from the email list as of that date and will no longer receive information about EACA activities.

## December Ballot

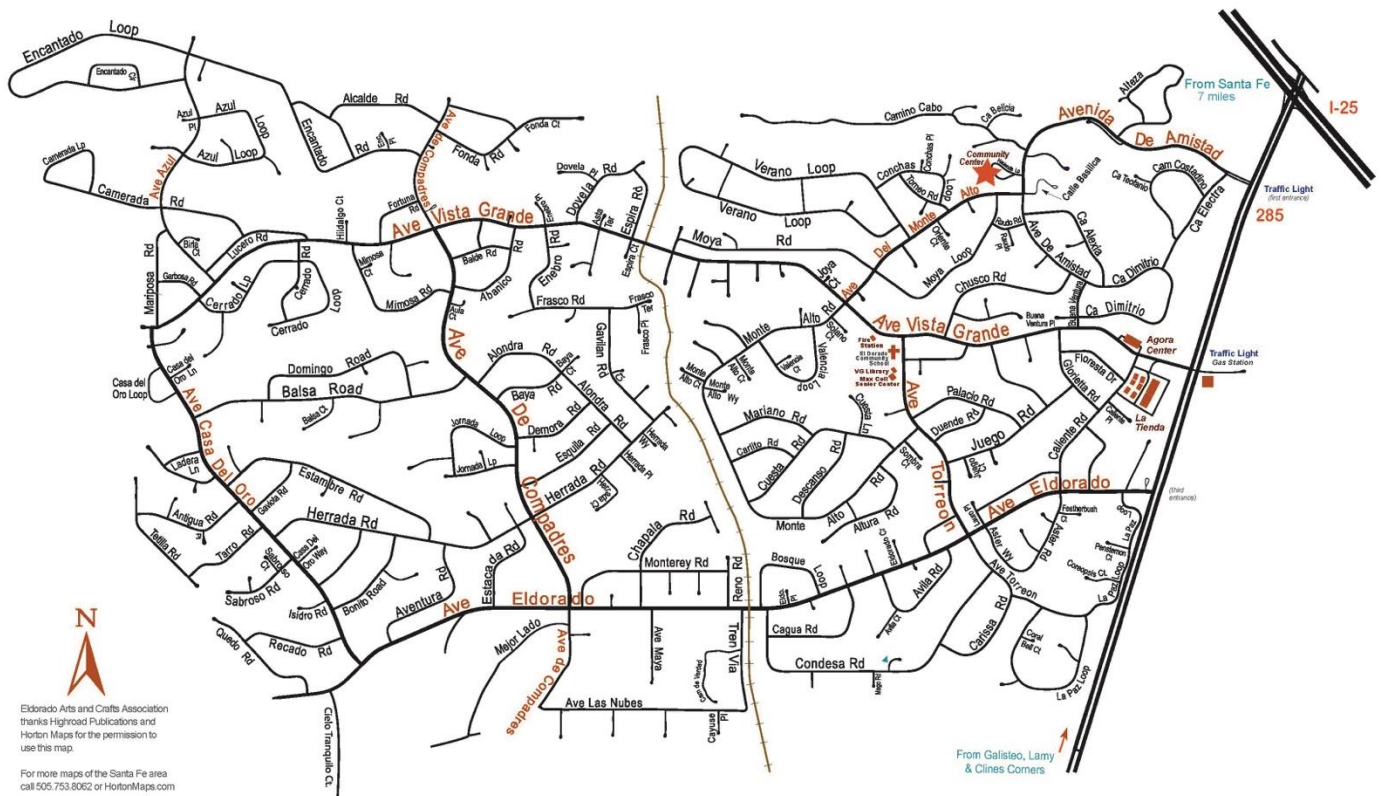
*Electronic Voting, December 1-6, 2024*

Each year, EACA membership must vote for its five elected officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Communications Director. Voting will take place electronically.

All members will receive an email notification when the balloting opens. Included with the ballot will be a short bio for each of the candidates. Voting will take place from December 1 – 6. On December 6, voting will close at 10:00 PM.

In addition to the officers, the ballot will include a proposed amendment to the EACA By-Laws. The question seeks to better define the area in which artists must live to qualify for participating in the Studio Tour and other EACA art shows. Currently, the By-Laws describe eligibility for participation as follows: “Members in good standing who live in the geographical area accessed by the three major entrances (Avenidas Amistad, Vista Grande, and Eldorado) will be eligible to participate” (Article 8.3). The residential development that has continued south of Avenida Eldorado, and the connection of Avenida de Compadres all the way to Spur Ranch Road, have led the Board to propose the following map with specific territory, intended to define clearly where artists must live in order to be eligible for the Studio Tour. The proposal represents no significant change in the area of eligibility.

### Proposed Eligible Area for All EACA Art Shows and Studio Tour



### EACA Treasurer's Report

Nan Patmont, Treasurer

The EACA Board evaluates its finances every year and, if needed, adjusts them to cover anticipated costs. This year, for reasons outlined here, the Board has decided to hold the membership fee at \$25.00, while evaluating the appropriate fee for participation in the Studio Tour.

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The Association's operating expenses have increased since we purchased a website from WIX. Prior to 2020 our website was written and maintained by a member, which saved us a considerable amount of money. But good things do eventually come to an end, and reliance on a member's skills was not possible forever. The Board decided that we needed to purchase a website that could be easily designed and maintained with the available expertise. Our membership dues have covered our operating costs, i.e., PayPal fees, a portion of the software fees, professional tax preparation, general membership meetings, mailbox rental, etc.

However, as we look to 2025, there is a real possibility that ECIA will begin charging us rental fees for use of the facilities. We'll learn more about the possibility of rental fees from ECIA after the ECIA Board meets before the end of the year. We do have some money in reserve, so we believe we will not need to raise the membership fee for 2025.

As for the evaluation of the Studio Tour registration fee, this year's Studio Tour was a financial success, in that our expenses did not exceed our income. In the early planning stages for the tour, we project 100 participating artists, as we never know exactly how many artists will eventually sign up for the Studio Tour; the planning number of 100 is conservative, allowing us to make sound income and expense projections that should be close to the actual amounts in a given year. (With 111 participants in 2024, we exceeded that projection by 11, which is fantastic! The more artists we have, the better the possibilities in bringing in sponsorships from the community.)

The expenses for the 2024 Studio Tour stayed within budget, thanks in large part to our fantastic in-house PR team. However, in 2025, the planning team will assess any known or anticipated cost changes to help determine the Studio Tour registration fee.

Readers with questions about the details of the EACA finances should contact Treasurer [Nan Patmont](#).

### **President's Letter, *continued***

(....continued from page 1)

There is also an item on the ballot connected to the By-Laws. Currently, our By-Laws state that members are eligible to participate in our Studio Tour and other shows, provided their residence is accessible by one of the three main entrances to Eldorado (Amistad, Vista Grande, and Eldorado). In the past few years, Ave. des Compadres has been extended south to intersect with Spur Ranch Road and has therefore opened up access from Eldorado to new residential areas.

The Board examined the situation and concluded that the original intent was to keep the boundaries to what we generally consider as Eldorado. The ballot seeks approval of a clarified definition of our area of eligibility, putting a southern boundary approximately parallel with Ave. des Nubes. A map included on the ballot illustrates the area of eligibility. (See also page 2, above.)

To those officers who are leaving the board this year, my personal thanks for your service, diligence, and creativity. Zina Hogan has served as Secretary for the past four years, and even before that. Pat Rasmussen has chaired the Studio Tour for several years and helped it evolve into a smooth-running team. Debbie Parke has been Pat's co-chair and is leaving her job as Communications Coordinator to take over as Chair for the Studio Tour.

It has been my privilege to serve as your President for the past two years. We have a terrific team on the Board who have created informative general meetings, shop talks, and social events. The Studio Tour is increasing in size and reported sales. The Spring and Winter shows continue as popular showcases for artists. Our contributions to other Eldorado community organizations from voluntary donations by Studio Tour artists continued in 2024, and in fact for the history of this practice, EACA has now passed the \$100,000 mark of such donations.

As I step down, the final thing I want to say is that the EACA needs you! We have wonderful, and many new, people stepping into leadership roles. The sense of involvement and community, knowing you are helping other artists prosper, and the chance to work in a team instead of as a solitary artist are among the rewards for participating. Thank you all for your support and happy holidays!

## EACA Winter Show 2024

The Winter Art Show on November 23 and 24 was fantastic. Artists had good foot traffic and sales, with pleasant weather throughout the weekend.

Holiday cookies, candies and cheese and crackers were happily devoured, and traffic stayed fairly steady for both show days. With a wide variety of arts and crafts for sale, guests happily bought holiday gifts and treats for themselves.

Now we are planning for our EACA Spring Art Market, scheduled for 1st weekend in May 2025! Applications will be going live in the third week of February! To be eligible for the May event, remember to renew your EACA memberships online at our website [eldoradoarts.org](http://eldoradoarts.org) in January 2025!

Thanks,  
Karen Murry and Judy Kramer

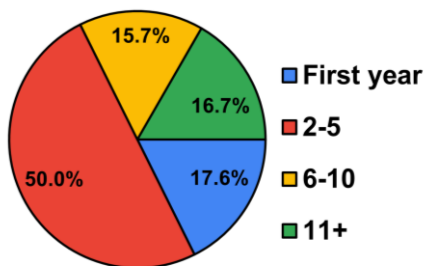
### The Results Are In: Data from the 2024 Studio Tour Survey Debbie Parke, Studio Tour Co-Director and Rhea Lowell, EACA Archivist

The 2024 Studio Tour has come and gone, and with the participants surveyed about their experience, we now have the survey results to digest. We want the membership to see the data. Raw data from the survey, a comparison of 2023 to 2024, and an analysis of some of the data are provided below.

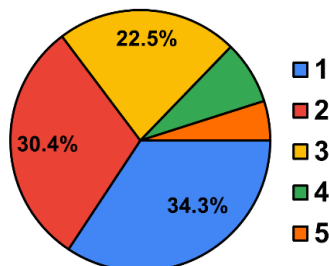
#### Raw Data from the Survey

The response to the 2024 survey was excellent, with more than 100 of the artists answering. The responses to the 5 questions asked in the survey are shown below in pie charts with the first category starting at the 3 o'clock position of each chart.

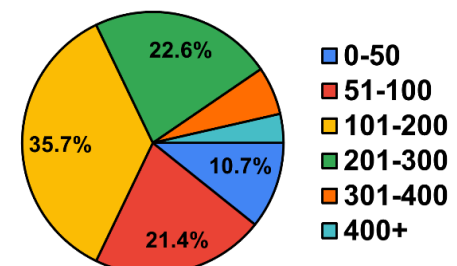
**Years in Tour**



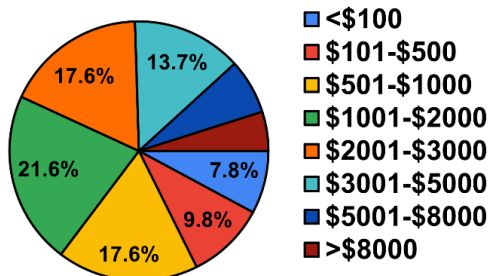
**Artists at Studio**



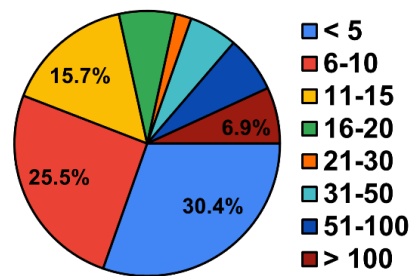
**Number of Visitors**



**Sales**



**Volunteer Hours**



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## Comparison of the 2023 vs 2024 Studio Tour Survey Data

Some survey questions in 2023 were close enough to those asked in 2024 that it's possible to highlight some changes between the two years. However, the comparisons below may not be totally accurate because of different response rates. The 2023 survey had a response of 50%, while in 2024 over 90% of the artists responded. So, for example, we don't know if the 50% who responded had higher sales, lower sales or were representative of all the sales that year. In the future, EACA plans to continue using the simple, short survey developed in 2024, in hopes that the response from artists will continue to be strong. If it is, then annual comparisons can be made with more confidence.

There are two very interesting comparisons between 2023 and 2024, shown in these two tables. The first table

Visitors at Studio	2023	2024	Change
0 - 50	18%	11%	- 7%
51 - 100	30%	21%	- 9%
101 - 200	30%	36%	+ 6%
201 - 300	16%	23%	+ 7%
Over 300	6%	10%	+ 4%

Sales for Artist	2023	2024	Change
\$0 - \$1000	33%	35%	+ 2%
\$1001 - \$2000	18%	22%	+ 4%
\$2001 - \$3000	22%	18%	- 4%
over \$3000	27%	26%	- 1%

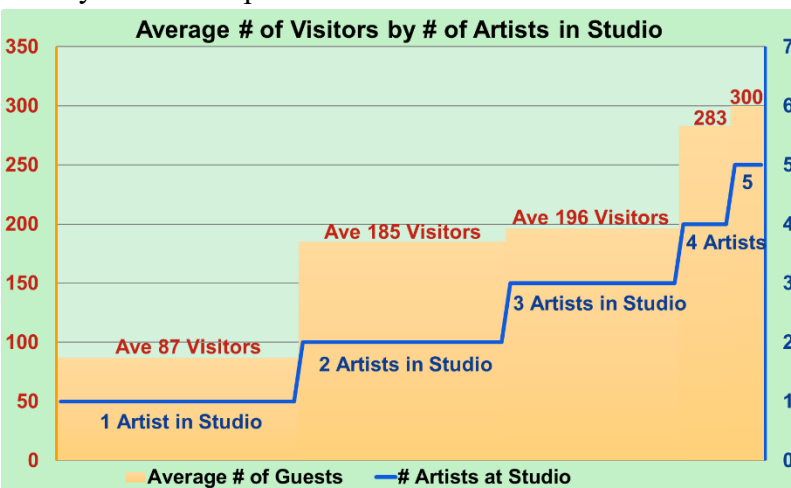
shows that the reported number of visitors at the studios increased in 2024.

The number of studios reporting fewer than 100 visitors decreased in 2024, while a higher number of visitors (more than 100 per studio) increased this year. The second table compares the reported sales in 2023 versus 2024. This table shows that more artists in 2024 reported lower sales amounts compared to 2023. Therefore, if the sales and attendance numbers are representative for 2023, it appears there were more visitors in 2024 but lower sales amounts.

## Analysis of the 2024 Studio Tour Survey Data

Of the 111 participant artists in the 2024 Studio Tour, 102 (92%) responded to the survey afterwards. Because the response was so robust, we can analyze the data and draw some useful conclusions.

A very useful comparison looks at the number of visitors to a studio compared to the number of artists showing there. The graph in the attached figure shows that for the 28 artists showing by themselves in a studio, there were on average 87 visitors. For studios with two or three artists, the number of visitors was more than double the visitors for solo artists, at about 190. For the few studios that had four or five artists showing their work, there were more than three times the number of visitors than for single artists. Therefore, if artists want as much exposure to potential buyers as possible, artists should try to share studio space.



Thanks to the efforts of Debbie Parke and Pat Rasmussen, more artists shared studios this year than ever before. On average, there were 1.63 artists per studio in 2024. Previously, the number of artists per studio ranged from 1.13 to 1.59.

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The table included with this paragraph shows the average number of (1) artists at a studio, (2) visitors, and (3) sales for the artist, broken into categories by the number of years the artists have participated in the Studio Tour. This table demonstrates that, of the 17 first-time participants, slightly more shared studio space with other artists, compared to artists who have been part of the Studio Tour for several years. Despite sharing studio space, first time artists reported fewer visitors and had significantly lower sales than artists who have been part

# Years in Tour	# Artists in Category	Ave # Artists @ Studio
First Year	17	2.3
2 - 5 Years	51	2.1
6 - 10 Years	16	2.5
11+ Years	16	1.9
# Years in Tour	Ave # Guests	Ave \$ Sales
First Year	148	\$879
2 - 5 Years	167	\$2,548
6 - 10 Years	207	\$2,766
11+ Years	142	\$3,063

of the tour for longer. Artists who have participated in the tour for two to 10 years had sales that were, on average, about three times the level of first-time participants. First-time artists, however, should not be discouraged. The table shows that if artists continue showing for more years, they should see improved sales at future Studio Tours. Artists who have been part of the tour for more than 11 years were the most successful in sales,

despite having generally fewer artists in their studio and fewer visitors. Clearly, their hard work and participation over the years has led to an established group of followers who attend the Studio Tour specifically to visit the studios of those long-term artists.

## Exhibits and Other Art Activities

EACA pastel artist Marilyn Wightman's painting, "Water Play," was selected for the Pastel Society of America's *Landscape Showcase*, in the Associate Members Division.

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EACA Photographer Sam Elkind has images in the *small WORKS* group exhibit at Obscura Gallery in Santa Fe. The exhibit will be on view through January 11, 2025.

-# # #-

Evie Gauthier, jewelry designer and EACA President, has created a self-published book called "Conversation Pieces: Jewelry as Social Commentary." The 22 items of jewelry featured in the book are Evie's response to the topics and events that challenge us all during this time. Her goal is to create beautiful jewelry that may also generate conversations on these challenges. Among the topics she has included are pieces on reproductive freedom, gun violence, family separations, the megadrought, and global warming.

The book is available to see and purchase at the Artistic License Gallery in the Agora, or you may contact Evie directly at [eviegauthier@comcast.net](mailto:eviegauthier@comcast.net)

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### Art at the Library

Collage artist Helen Becker will be the artist featured at the Vista Grande Public Library, from January 2 through February. A 2023 winner of the National Collage Society's annual exhibit award, Becker describes her work as "collage-painting." She uses a blending, collage technique with tissue paper, often applying colorful, fluid acrylic paints on rice paper, tearing or cutting materials to glue to a surface. She explains, "When glue is applied to tissue paper of any color it becomes translucent, allowing color to partly show through."

A native of Ohio, Becker moved west with her husband after college, in search of wide-open spaces, settling first in Moab (where she was a founding board member of Gallery Moab and helped direct the Plein Air Moab Competition) before moving to New Mexico two-and-a-half years ago.

There will be a public reception for Becker at the library on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 to 3:00 PM. As always, 20% of any art sales benefit the library, a 501(c)3, independent library.

*VGPL Art Exhibits Coordinator, [Monica Emrich](#) continues to encourage local artists to exhibit their work. Either 2-D or 3-D art will be considered for exhibition. More details about the library's exhibiting process can be found at this [link](#).*

## Artists' Resources

### New Mexico Women in the Arts

Women artists have access to a support network called New Mexico Women in the Arts. One EACA member, Linda Armantrout, urges women who are EACA members to consider membership in this organization.

"I have been so happy to enjoy a membership in **The New Mexico State Committee (NMC)**," Linda writes. "It is part of an international network sponsored by **National Museum of Women in the Arts** that supports women artists beyond museum walls. The NMC offers a registry for women artists, special events, and studio visits. I am writing to recommend this affordable membership that does not conflict with your EACA activities and adds to your presence in the New Mexico community."

Membership can increase artists' network of supportive colleagues, who enjoy technical workshops to help with challenges. It can also help to showcase members' work in an available non-juried registry.

More information is available online at: <https://newmexicowomeninthearts.org>.

-# # #-

### Calls for Entry:

The Greater Denton Arts Council (TX) seeks entries for its 38<sup>th</sup> annual [International Materials: Hard + Soft Contemporary Craft & Conceptual Art Competition and Exhibition](#). Beyond such traditional materials as ceramic, wood, fiber, metal, glass, paper, and mixed media, the 2025 exhibit is to include digital media and conceptual art that explore the themes of hardness and softness through ephemeral mediums/concepts such as light (or the absence of light), air, and language. Entry deadline: December 2, 2024. Entry fee \$35.00.

The Remarque Print Workshop (Albuquerque) announces its [fifth annual non-juried Print Exchange](#). It offers this exchange as a great way for print makers to interact and network. All entries will be accepted. Entry deadline: December 15, 2024. Entry fee: \$35.00.

The Sebastapol, CA Center for the Arts (SebArts) seeks entries from artists working in a wide range of media for their exhibit, [Driven to Abstraction](#). Cash awards are being offered in this exhibit. Entry deadline: December 15, 2024. Entry fee: \$35.00.

The Tubac, AZ Arts Center seeks entries for an exhibition called [Dreamscapes](#). The exhibit seeks to explore images inspired by or rooted in dreams or altered realities. There will be cash awards as part of the jurying process. Entry deadline: January 24, 2025. Entry fee: \$30.00.

The Studio Door art center in San Diego, CA seeks entries for [The Crow Show 2025](#). The exhibit will extend beyond the physical display to include some works shown only online. A cash award for “best in show” is available. Entry deadline: January 31, 2025. Entry fee: \$35.00.

Las Lagunas Art Gallery (CA) seeks submissions from women artists for its show, [2025 – Women in Art](#). Submissions may be in a very wide range of artistic media. All artists submitting work will be accepted for an online exhibit, while a select number of artists will have their work shown in the physical gallery. Entry deadline: January 31, 2025. Entry fee: \$35.00.

The [Gunnison \(CO\) Arts Center](#) seeks proposals for art exhibits in one of three unique galleries in that town. Exhibits are typically expected to be one month long. The available gallery space varies by the specific location. No entry deadline. Entry fee: \$5.00.

Masterworks of New Mexico, a collaborative effort of four separate organizations exhibiting together, calls for entries of paintings and pastels for their [2025 Fine Art Show](#). Cash prizes are included as part of the jury process. Entry deadline: January 31, 2025. Entry fee: \$15.00 per entry.

### **Residencies:**

The [Helene Wurlitzer Foundation](#) offers a three-month residency in Taos. Selected artists have time and space in which to create. Entry deadline: January 18, 2025. Entry fee: \$30.00.

[Anderson Ranch Arts Center](#) in Snowmass, CO is accepting applications for residencies in late 2025 and 2026. Entry deadline: February 19, 2025. Entry fee: \$30.00.

The National Parks Service at [Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area](#) (MT) seeks four artists to participate in the 2025 residency. Entry deadline: January 31, 2025. No entry fee.

## **In Memoriam: Andrea Sharon**

Evie Gauthier, EACA President

With great sadness, we report the death of photographer Andrea Sharon on November 12, 2024. She was surrounded by friends and at peace.

Andrea had a full career as a ranger with the National Park Service. She learned about wildlife and developed her skill as a photographer. When she retired, she became a full-time professional photographer. Her favorite subjects were animals in their natural setting.



As recently as five years ago she went on a photo safari in Africa and came back with stunning shots of birds and animals. She also loved to teach and consult, and not long ago did a teaching trip to Alaska with the National Park Service.

These recent trips were all the more remarkable because they followed a diagnosis of cancer. She went on with her life, as well as receiving courses of treatment, and defied all estimates of survival by years.

Andrea was an active member of the EACA and also the Artistic License Gallery. She always had a smile and shared her love of the natural world through her art. Her friends and her community feel her absence.



## Notes from The Field

Chuck Boxwell

Every summer since 2018, I have driven to Colorado for the annual MARBLE/marble Stone Carving Symposium. Nestled high in the Colorado Rockies, the annual Symposium has been attracting sculptors, from beginners to experienced professionals, for 35 years.

Its hometown of Marble gets its name from the historic Yule marble quarry that started operation there in the late 1800s. The area's signature white stone has been used for such historic works as the Lincoln Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery, as well as many other prestigious buildings across the United States.

Forty-five stone carvers and about 15 staff members share a unique blend of natural beauty, artistic challenge and communal spirit. Each participant is provided with a 200- to 400-pound piece of Yule marble, a carving site with compressed air and electricity, use of sculpting tools, workshops and individual support from the instructors. An optional meal plan is offered for the eight-day event.

For me the real magic of the Symposium isn't just the experience of carving stone outdoors in the beauty of the Colorado Rockies with the input and help of the highly qualified staff, but rather working and interacting with other like-minded artists from around the world. This is a very different experience than carving alone in my Eldorado workshop. Seeing what others create and how they approach their work has been very rewarding for me.

The days that I spend in Marble Colorado each summer have been a highlight of the year for me. In many ways it is like when I went to summer camp as a young man, meeting and interacting with new people and expanding my horizons – in this case artistically. Marble Symposium's enduring legacy isn't the sculptures created each year but rather the transformative experiences that resonate long after the last day's dust settles.



Carving sites dispersed around the MARBLE grounds



Chuck Boxwell carving in his MARBLE worksite

*Members are invited to submit "Notes from the Field." Such notes should be short narratives or reflections (not over 400 words in length) about important experiences outside the studio – i.e., from the field – that have contributed in some way to their artistic practice.*

## EACA Planning Calendar

- December 1 – 6, 2024 – Balloting by email for (1) EACA Officers and (2) By-Laws revision to clarify area of eligibility for participating in Studio Tour and other EACA art exhibits. Balloting closes at 10:00 PM on December 6.
- January 2025: Membership renewals are due.
- January 8 – EACA Board Meeting, 10:00 AM at ECIA.

## 2024 EACA BOARD

**Website:** [www.EldoradoArts.org](http://www.EldoradoArts.org)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/eldoradoarts>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/eldoradoartsandcrafts>

### Elected Positions

President	Evie Gauthier	<a href="mailto:EACAPresident@gmail.com">EACAPresident@gmail.com</a>	(734) 474-0748
Vice-President	Chuck Boxwell	<a href="mailto:VicePresidentEACA@gmail.com">VicePresidentEACA@gmail.com</a>	(213) 304-8022
Secretary	Zina Hogan	<a href="mailto:EACASecretary22@gmail.com">EACASecretary22@gmail.com</a>	(405) 315-6080
Treasurer	Nan Patmont	<a href="mailto:TreasurerEACA@gmail.com">TreasurerEACA@gmail.com</a>	(530) 272-2334
Communications	Debbie Parke	<a href="mailto:EldoradoArts@gmail.com">EldoradoArts@gmail.com</a>	(505) 660-9446

### Appointed Positions

Membership Chair	Molly Elkind	<a href="mailto:mpelkind@comcast.net">mpelkind@comcast.net</a>	(678) 230-2177
Newsletter Editor	Sam Elkind	<a href="mailto:sselkind@comcast.net">sselkind@comcast.net</a>	(678) 230-2166
Archivist	Rhea Lowell	<a href="mailto:rhealowell@comcast.net">rhealowell@comcast.net</a>	(505) 795-5259
Member-at-Large	Elizabete Freijs	<a href="mailto:elizabetefreijs@mac.com">elizabetefreijs@mac.com</a>	(702) 576-8489
Shop Talk Coordinator	Harland Soper	<a href="mailto:harnsoper@gmail.com">harnsoper@gmail.com</a>	(605) 804-0198
Social Committee Co-Chairs	Roxanne Turner	<a href="mailto:turnerrox08@hotmail.com">turnerrox08@hotmail.com</a>	(503) 468-9432
	Tama Dumlao	<a href="mailto:flyingrabbit@sbcglobal.net">flyingrabbit@sbcglobal.net</a>	(760) 845-8875
Spring/Winter Show Co-Chairs	Karen Murry	<a href="mailto:kmurry@comcast.net">kmurry@comcast.net</a>	(505) 699-4376
	Judy Kramer	<a href="mailto:jboomerdog@yahoo.com">jboomerdog@yahoo.com</a>	(310) 488-0094
Studio Tour Co-Directors	Pat Rasmussen	<a href="mailto:EldoradoStudioTour@gmail.com">EldoradoStudioTour@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:patrasmussen2@icloud.com">patrasmussen2@icloud.com</a>	(505) 310-0522
	Debbie Parke	<a href="mailto:EldoradoStudioTour@gmail.com">EldoradoStudioTour@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:dparke62@gmail.com">dparke62@gmail.com</a>	(505) 660-9446
Website Manager	Nan Patmont	<a href="mailto:TreasurerEACA@gmail.com">TreasurerEACA@gmail.com</a>	(530) 272-2334
Past Presidents	Jolene Petrowski	<a href="mailto:Jolene_petrowski@comcast.net">Jolene_petrowski@comcast.net</a>	(609) 221-5736
	Kim Crickard	<a href="mailto:kcrickardart@gmail.com">kcrickardart@gmail.com</a>	(619) 971-3908

*The EACA newsletter is published in even-numbered months (February, April, June, August, October, and December). Please submit articles or notices for the newsletter to the editor, Sam Elkind ([sselkind@comcast.net](mailto:sselkind@comcast.net)). Submissions should involve EACA activities, or be connected to members' art enterprises - e.g., exhibits, calls for entry, classes and similar resources.*