UPCOMING

June 1, 2021
EACA Board Meeting at
10:00 am (Zoom)

June 3, 2021
Life Drawing Session at
10:00 am in the classroom
at the Eldorado Community
Center. Fee $10.00  Contact
Joe Mullins joe@fishprint.net

June 4-25, 2021
2021 Eldorado Studio Tour
Application due. Must be
an active member of EACA.
(see article at right for more
information)

June 7 and 21, 2021
Life Drawing Session
10:00 am - contact Joe
Mullins at joe@fishprint.net
for more information

June 25, 2021
Deadline for July Newsletter
submissions. Send to
EldoradoArts@gmail.com

July 9, 2021
Deadline for image
submission for those
participating in Eldorado
Studio Tour.

June 2021 NEWSLETTER

President’s Message • Eldorado Studio Tour Update • EACA Member Announcements
Meet the Artist: Mekah Gordon

It’s happening!! The Eldorado Arts and Crafts Studio Tour!!
October 23-24, 2021!!

Our Tour is the oldest and largest in the state of New Mexico. The excitement
builds in the Eldorado community as flags and banners and signs appear and
the Community Center is transformed into a fine arts gallery. Thousands of
visitors arrive to see the studios and patronize Eldorado businesses. We expect
about 100 artists to participate, and the quality and range of creativity among our
artists is truly inspiring.

It was a tough decision to cancel the tour in 2020 but in retrospect the correct
one. This year, there was much deliberation about whether, how, and when to
schedule a Studio Tour. Our final choice was October 23-24.

Scheduling locations for our meetings and Preview Gallery has been delayed
because most of the public meeting facilities have not been making future
reservations. Just last week the Eldorado Community Center opened up to
future plans, so we have reserved the Center for our Preview Gallery. We will
have the entire facility and have added an extra day for the Preview Gallery
committee to set up. The new participants’ orientation meeting will occur at the
Library meeting room, the exact date to be determined and may have limits on
the number attending. We will have room for all new participants, but perhaps
not all their mentors.

As of June 4, the application materials and related information will be available
on our website, eldoradoarts.org. Applications should be received by June 25.
Those coming in between June 25 and July 2 carry a $50 late fee. No
applications will be accepted after July 2.

We have a beautiful postcard announcing this year’s dates, ready to be sent out
as a “save the date” notice. It will be mailed to our regional list of 6,500 next
week. We also have 1000 extra cards. Members wishing to have cards to send
to their own mailing list, please contact me at eviegauthier@comcast.net. There
will also be a digital version of the card that can be downloaded from our website
and used in your social media. The EACA Board generously donated funds for
the printing and mailing of these cards this year so it will not impact the tour
budget

Submitted by Evie Gauthier, Studio Tour Chair, eviegauthier@comcast.net
EACA MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAVE THE DATE

Fri. June 4, 2021 5 pm
Ann Kresge is having a one-person retrospective at Remarque Galleries in Albuquerque (Nob Hill) - opening June 4. Ann will be giving a Gallery Talk at this in-person reception as well. The exhibition runs June 4-27.
https://www.remarqueprintshop.com

Sun. June 6, 2021 10-3
Jolene Petrowski will be showing and selling her macrame items at the Santa Fe Railyard Artisan Market.
www.Macrame-And-More.com

Sat June 12, 2021 10-4
Sun June 13, 2021 11-4
Janet O’Neal and Kathleen Koltes will be participating in a pop-up show with several other artists. Both will also be participating in the Studio Tour this year. See announcement at right for more information

NEW ARTIST SPACE NOW OPEN
EACA Members Sharon Davis and Alicia Otis have opened a joint art space. It is called Maliagrte Art Space and is located at 2103 Avenida Vista Grande (Next to Eldorado Automotive). Sharon makes creative knitted wall hangings, scarves, and smaller knitted items. Alicia creates mystical mixed media drawings, horses, trees of life and much more using pastels, colored pencil, and various iridescent pen work. Weekend hours by appointment only – call Alicia Otis at 505-629-3570
Weekdays Sharon Davis is next door at Eldorado Automotive from 8:30-5:00.

Please submit your announcements for the following month’s newsletter by the 25th of the month for the next month’s newsletter. These announcements will also be shared on our Facebook page and blog.
MEET THE ARTIST: Dr. Mekah Gordon
by Cyma Shapiro

**Years in Santa Fe:** 21
**Medium:** Gold and Silversmithing
**Proudest Accomplishment:** a sterling silver Fortune Cookie with an Engravable Fortune ©️ 1982, purchased by Tiffany & Co. in 1992, for prospectus. The copyright was registered in the Library of Congress in 1982.

For Mekah Gordon, life is art and art is life. “I always had a creative drive,” she explains. “The work ethic was implanted (early).” She first and foremost credits her mother with encouraging and fostering her talents. “My mother would take me to museums,” she said. “I was just enamored, just struck by the art, esp. of the Etruscans, the Greeks, the Romans – how they would create their works…..the techniques, the paintings – the colors, the shades. I ingratiated myself in this….. So, that’s part of my DNA. I love it and was struck by it all.”

Her junior high school teacher was her first mentor; he nurtured her from being his apprentice to selling his works and graduating to her own bench. Later, it was her four years at SUNY/New Paltz, studying under world-renowned master Metals Department professor Robert (Bob) Ebendorf that firmly cemented her future. She states, “His guidance, influence, and professional approach to designing and creating body adornments had me hooked!”

This time spent, during the 60’s, was swirling with energy, creativity and passion. “It was all magical to me – doing it professionally and putting it all together. I was in the art studios from early morning to early morning – it was a second home. I’d take five studios at a time. Everybody around me was creating these masterful pieces.”

To date, Mekah’s resume is extensive - teaching high school for 35 years; Professor of Gold & Silversmithing, for 17 years, at a New York college. Her work has been published in numerous magazines; her pieces have been collected throughout the world. She was the owner of the ECLECTICS Art Gallery in La Tienda, from 2010-2016. In 2016, she built an 800 s.f. jewelry studio (her “woman’s cave”) on her property, near her house. In 2017, she was featured in Eldorado Living. She continues to teach and create.

For Mekah, everything harkens back to her roots. She remembers fondly when she was just starting out. “When I was doing these beginning shows, I couldn’t afford (the metals) and would roam around plumbing stores on Canal Street. They were storefronts with odds and ends with boxes filled with mostly brass castoffs. You’d fill a paper bag. It was intriguing – you’d never know what you might find (She still has some pieces from 50 years ago…..)

She also sees (and is proud of) the influence she had on her many students and lives the sentiments she imparts. “I tell my students: Always (achieve) your dreams. Do the things that you love.”

In this case, it’s all about the metal. And, that means gold, silver, platinum, brass, copper, pewter... “Metals have really gotten me hooked in the sense that whatever (material) I used, it was like magic.” Her works are one-of-a kind pieces, she says proudly – quick to say that she doesn’t make “production pieces.”

“You can get ideas by sitting outside – there’s so much activity that others may see. You can get ideas from looking in any place, she said.” (Continued pg 4)
Today, she’s come full circle. Two years ago, she learned that her professor, Bob, had moved to Santa Fe. “He was one of the driving forces in my life. Seeing him was “an epiphany of two lives separated and brought back together again.” He told her that she is a “warrior,” adding how proud he was that she is “still doing it after all these years.”

She keeps a photograph of him (with his arm around her) and the famous Russian jeweler, Peter Carl Faberge, in her studio and often talks to them when seeking inspiration and answers. “I like to take something from nothing and make it (like) magic. Things with little intrinsic value and showing (my students a different) way to look, to see.”

She values and appreciates a full life which has landed her in this area. “This is where I’ve had my peace. My peace is here. I sit and I’m creative,” she said, musing about the cedar wood chips right in front of her, on her property. They, too, are “one-of-a-kind pieces.”

“I teach people to take the time to see, to look up and check the mountains, the sky, the sunsets, the bugs on the ground. This is what is important. I’ve adored life around me and have tried to get others to take the time to look at things….it’s all part of the life that’s around us….Every day is a blessing……”

And, what’s in store for her future? “Chapter One was teaching,” she said. “Chapter Two was owning my own gallery. Chapter Three is now for me.”

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Website: https://www.snagmetalsmith.org/members/docgauagsmith

If you are interested in sharing your story in our “Meet the Artist” Series contact Jolene Petrowski
EldoradoArts@gmail.com