



NEWSLETTER

President's Message • Eldorado Studio Tour Update • EACA Member Announcements

Meet the Artist: Mekah Gordon

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.



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

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.

NEW ARTIST SPACE NOW OPEN

EACA Members Sharon Davis and Alicia Otis have opened a joint art space. It is called ***Maliagrete 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.



Sharon's knitted wall hanging



Alicia's mystical horse

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 ingratuated 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)



Horsehead Brooch & Mini Sculpture – mixed media

MEET THE ARTIST: Dr. Mekah Gordon (continued)

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

EACA EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

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