

In With the New

Contemporary art captures the imagination of New Mexico — and beyond

Santa Fe: Edging Toward Contemporary

The city's ever-growing art scene shines in contemporary art

by Mary Anne Redding

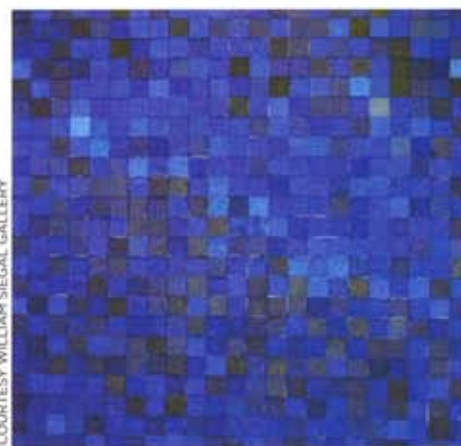
The Land of Enchantment has long been known for its tradition of Native American and Southwest art, but of late New Mexico — the nation's third largest art market after New York and Los Angeles — is again enjoying the international artistic spotlight for its bold and exciting contemporary art.

The brightest minds and most discerning eyes are turning to Santa Fe, which enjoyed a full-page article in *The New York Times'* Arts & Leisure section last January, as SITE Santa Fe — one of the nation's most innovative nonprofit exhibition spaces — continues to capture the imagination of collectors, curators, dealers, and enthusiasts from around the world. SITE mounts compelling and important exhibitions throughout the year, but the institution is best known for its biennial — and 2008 is a biennial year.

Independent curator Lance Fung, calling his curatorial process "controlled chaos," has partnered with 18 institutions from around the world and 23 artists — three from New Mexico — to create site-specific installations of an ephemeral nature. *Lucky Number Seven* will open to a weekend of



COURTESY CHARLOTTE JACKSON FINE ART



COURTESY WILLIAM SIEGAL GALLERY

Pact (left) by Frederick Hammersley (Charlotte Jackson Fine Art) and Aurora by Carlos Estrada Vega (William Siegal Gallery) represent different generations of postwar/contemporary abstract painting.

festivities, June 20-22, 2008, and continue through Oct. 26. Fung and SITE director Laura Stewart Heon brought the artists to Santa Fe last winter for a weeklong tour of snowy northern New Mexico. Their installations are expected to attract

Zane Bennett Contemporary Art commissioned Guy Dill's *Boon* (2008) for the gallery's new space in the Railyard District.



COURTESY ZANE BENNETT CONTEMPORARY ART

international media attention and tourists. (See interview with Lance Fung, page 9.)

Across from SITE are the top-drawer Railyard District galleries — James Kelly Contemporary, Tai Gallery, Evo Gallery, Gebert Contemporary, and William Siegal Gallery. They deal largely in blue-chip and well-established contemporary art, each with its own aesthetic vision. A walk through James Kelly will reveal everything from Ellsworth Kelly and Oli Sihvoen to Roni Horn and Tom Joyce. Tai Gallery specializes in exquisite bamboo sculpture and Japanese photography. Evo has a program that's at once world-class (Ed Ruscha, Bernar Venet, Agnes Martin) and daring (Ligia Bouton, Herve di Rosa, Robert Ehrlich), while the wide-open Gebert Contemporary has a dynamic mix of well-established contemporary painters and sculptors working in a variety of media, including monumental ceramic *dangos* by Jun

Kaneko and color-field frescos on linen by Marcia Myers. William Siegal juxtaposes impeccably selected ancient textiles and ceremonial objects, and sculpture from pre-Columbian, Asian, and African cultures with the works by carefully chosen contemporary artists.

Behind the Railyard galleries are Santa Fe Clay and Box Gallery, where emerging artists enjoy big exhibition spaces. Ted Laredo's Reflective Phosphorescent Paintings emit pulsing vibrations that change under different light. Other Box Gallery artists to seek out include Emily Kimball, Christy Hengst, Timothy Nero, and sculptor Jack Slentz.

Zane Bennett Contemporary Art opened its 10,000-square-foot space on two levels with a 20-car parking lot in May 2008. The gallery represents Los Angeles sculptor Guy Dill and has upcoming exhibitions for Swiss minimalist Olivier Mosset; Tony Soulie and Donald Woodman, photographers from France and New Mexico, respectively; and Gunther Forg, a well-known German artist who has influenced many young European painters.

Last year, the American Planning Association named Canyon Road — rich with galleries, shops, and restaurants — as one of "10 Great Streets" because it "exemplifies exceptional character and highlights the role planners and planning play in creating communities of lasting value." Don't miss Turner Carroll Gallery (especially Igor Melnikov), Klaudia Marr Gallery (contemporary realism), and Bellas Artes, celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Off Canyon Road on Garcia Street is Photo-Eye Bookstore and Gallery (376 Garcia Street, Suite A). Between the offerings at Photo-Eye, Monroe Gallery

(112 Don Gaspar), and the Andrew Smith Gallery (now with two locations, 203 W. San Francisco St. and 122 Grant Ave.), photography collectors and enthusiasts have a fine selection of dealers.

Charlotte Jackson Fine Art — which has a wonderfully monochromatic program balanced with dynamic works by Charles Arnoldi and Frederick Hammersley — has an excellent space downtown on Marcy



COURTESY TURNER CARROLL GALLERY

Fresh off a solo museum exhibition in Oklahoma and a group show at San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Hung Liu brings new work, including *Girl and Crane* (above), to Turner Carroll Gallery.

Specializing in traditional and contemporary American art, Gerald Peters Gallery (1011 Paseo de Peralta) is like visiting a small, carefully planned museum with a research library and bookstore. The gallery has a deep roster of artists and solid curatorial vision.

Linda Durham Contemporary Art (1101 Paseo de Peralta) features the large-format photography by Michael Eastman and oddly beautiful coffee-stained muslin sculptures by Barbara Zusman.

Street and a massive new project space, open for special events and by appointment, at 7511 Mallard Way, just outside of town. Jackson founded and continues to direct Art Santa Fe (www.artsantafe.com), an annual contemporary fair at El Museo de Cultural. Started as a biennial event in 1995 to attract international art representation to Santa Fe during the Opera season, the fair's growing success has led to annual summer art programs sponsored by Art Santa Fe.