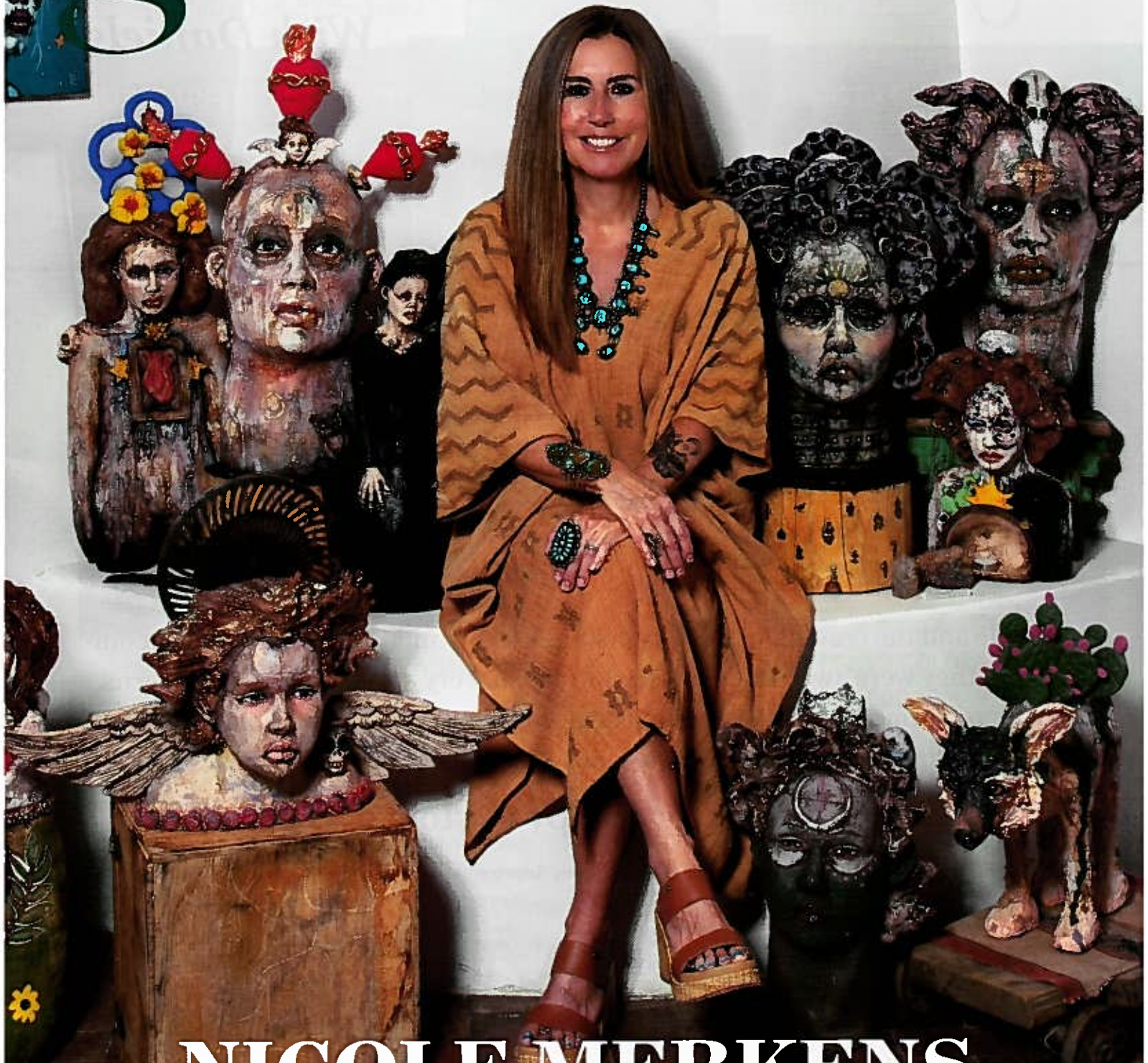


greet

ELDORADO



NICOLE MERKENS
STUDIO 36



Sandy Winkelman with art



Shyama Helin art

ANNUAL STUDIO TOUR SEPTEMBER 19-20

The 34th annual Eldorado Arts & Crafts Assn. Studio Tour is the largest in our state.

NANCY WHEELER



Nestled among the junipers and beneath the sweeping high-desert skies of Eldorado lies a remarkable collection of artistic treasures waiting to be discovered. For one weekend each year, the Eldorado Studio Tour transforms the community into a celebration of creativity, inviting art lovers and collectors to explore an extraordinary array of paintings, jewelry, ceramics, photography, fiber art, woodworking, sculpture, mosaics and more.

Now in its 34th year, New Mexico's largest and longest-running studio tour will showcase the work of 105 artists in 63 studios throughout Eldorado. The tour kicks off with a preview exhibit at the Eldorado Community Center on Friday evening, September 18th from 5-7 pm. This is a chance to meet the artists and get a glimpse of what will be on view in their studios.

Make sure to grab a catalog with the map and follow the colorful numbered flags to the studios. Visitors are sure to be enchanted by the spaces where artistic magic happens.

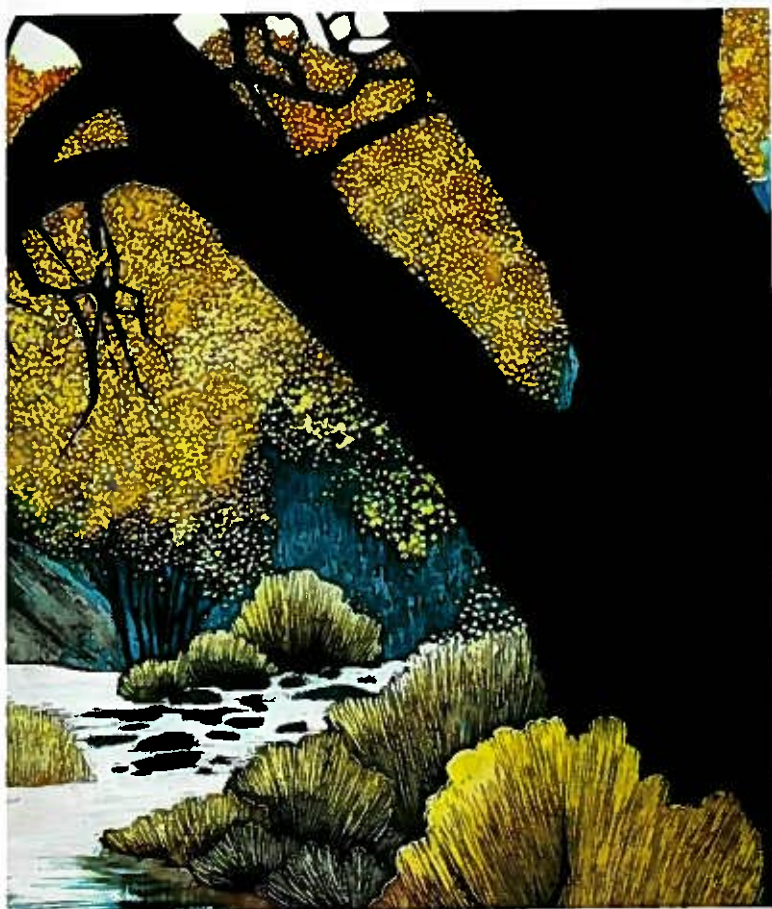
Mary Barron's ceramic studio, aptly located on Encantado Road—Spanish for "Enchanted"—is a joyful refuge of whimsy

and color. Stepping inside feels like entering the artist's imagination. Her garden and studio are inseparable, each reflecting the quiet dialogue between observation, memory, and the natural world that informs her work.

Working in both ceramics and fused glass, Mary's work has been widely exhibited. It has traveled to US embassies in both Paraguay and Malawi, and she was commissioned by the U.S. Department of State to create a large, fused glass mural triptych for its Embassy in Burundi.

"I love getting my hands dirty—sculpting and carving clay," she says holding an unfinished floral sculpture. "It's just magical," she adds. "I have always wanted to make something that lasts."

Music is a constant companion in her studio. "I often listen while creating, letting rhythm and mood guide each piece," she says, gesturing toward one of her colorful ceramic totems. Like a symphony, her sculptures are composed of many interwoven forms. "The pods and the leaves are abstracted from the memory of nature," she explains. "Through flowing abstract forms, leaves, and flowers, I aim to capture joy and invite the viewer into a world of beauty and delight."



Mary Barron

Now in her eighth year on the Eldorado Studio Tour, Mary fills her studio with ceramic totems, lamps, garden ornaments, and three-dimensional wall pieces. One of the pleasures of visiting is hearing her explain the techniques behind the work. Walls lined with colorful glaze tests, works in progress, and shelves of materials reveal the experimentation and wonderful craftsmanship behind every finished piece.

As I stepped into Carla Pennie McBrides's studio, she was busy preparing for an upcoming exhibition at the Ulster Museum in Belfast, Northern Ireland, the city where she grew up. Yet amid the activity, her workbench still held the tiny treasures that inspire her. In her work, fossilized ivory, bone, stone, and precious metals are more than materials, they are fragments of a larger story, shaped by time and transformed by the artist's hand.

In her jewelry, the boundary between artifact and adornment all but disappears. Inspired by nature's subtle patterns, she creates evocative jewelry that feels both contemporary and timeless. She incorporates processes that spans centuries. She combines modern gold and silversmithing with the ancient Korean technique of *Keum Boo*, fusing 24-karat gold leaf to silver, as well as scrimshaw, the traditional art of engraving bone and ivory. Delicate gold and silver disc necklaces echo sea pods, while pendant necklaces pair hand-selected lapis, turquoise and glass beads into quietly elegant compositions. Monochromatic silver and black resin earrings complete the collection with understated sophistication.

"My work is simple and easy to wear," Carla says. "Dress it up or dress it down."

Visitors will also discover her mixed-media etchings, inspired by nineteenth-century illustrations of insects and butterflies. After printing, she continues to build each image with layers of ink, collage, and metal leaf, creating works that celebrate the ephemeral beauty of the natural world.

This marks Carla's sixteenth year participating in the Eldorado Studio Tour. "I love the incredible variety of artists and craftspeople here," she says. After visiting her studio, it is easy to see why visitors return year after year.

There is a profound synergy between the art of scratchboard and the artist who embraces it. For Shayama Helin, the medium—which requires scratching light out of a dark surface—feels like a natural extension of a childhood spent in the quiet shadows of a cabin in the woods.

Growing up off the grid, entirely without telephone or electricity, Shayama spent her formative years sketching under the comforting canopy of the forest, alone with her imagination. That deep, unbreakable connection to nature remains etched into every aspect of her work today. Every precise scratch on the board reveals intricate textures of foliage, skies, and waterways, transforming deeply personal memories of the wild into breathtaking images.

It's an outlook reflected in her own words. Shayama describes herself as "a small person in a big world with a sense of wonder."

CONTINUED ►



Carla Pennie McBride



Carla Pennie McBride jewelry



Mary Barron totem art



Shyama Helin

"I love getting my hands dirty—sculpting and carving clay," she says holding an unfinished floral sculpture. "It's just magical," she adds. "I have always wanted to make something that lasts."

—MARY BARRON

Originally developed as an illustration medium that mimicked traditional engraving, scratchboard has become something far more expressive in her hands, as she enhances its dramatic contrasts with luminous ink washes. She allows the etched linework and delicate textures to remain visible beneath the color. Areas she intentionally leaves untouched become brilliant whites—the light in a sky or the shimmering luminescence on the water's surface.

A lone boat. A quiet house. These recurring motifs become protagonists in open-ended narratives, inviting viewers to imagine where they might lead and who might be waiting there.

Visitors to Shayama's studio get a bonus, as she shares a space with her husband, Sandy Winkelman. This year marks their fifth year as participants in the tour.

Sandy draws with fire. Few artistic processes are as elemental as his. Using a temperature-controlled pyrography pen, he burns graceful lines, subtle shading, and richly textured imagery directly into wood. He explains, "The wood's unique grain becomes an integral part of every composition, adding warmth, texture, and individuality."

Gesturing to an image of a bear, he said, "I began with watercolor, and realized I was not just a painter, but that I wanted to combine painting with fine craft, I'm also interested in scientific illustration."

Having found his artistic home in the Southwest, Sandy explores the spiritual interconnectedness of desert plants and animals. Sandy explains, "I love being in Eldorado and my art resonates here in Santa Fe—my color palette reflects the natural desert tones, and I am interested in how animals survive here in the desert through patterns; how they blend into the land." Visitors to his studio will discover ravens, coyotes, bears and owls—all imbued with a unique spirit.

His twenty years as a graphic designer and animator at Nike are evident in the bold compositions, confident line work, and striking use of color that distinguish his work. As Sandy describes it, his work is "A fusion of fire, color, wood, and the rhythms of nature."

Purchasing artwork from this year's participating artists has an added benefit: the Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association that sponsors the tour supports the community. The EACA offers free classes at the library, participates in the Fourth of July and Earth Day Celebrations, and has donated one hundred thousand dollars to local causes such as the Fire Department, the community school and the 285 Recycles Group. The studios will be open Saturday, September 19 and Sunday, September 20, from 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information, please visit the EACA website at www.eldoradoarts.org



Sandy Winkelman art



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