

preston contemporaryartcenter

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1755 AVENIDA DE MERCADO | BOX 1022 | MESILLA, NM 88046 | USA | 575.523.8713

OPEN Wed - Fri, 1-5 pm; Sat, 11 AM - 5 PM; Sun, 1 - 5 pm;

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Contact: Bonnie Schranz, Preston Contemporary Art Center

bschranz@prestoncontemporaryart.com 575-523-8713

Preston Contemporary Art Center Opens 2009 Summer Exhibition Friday, July 10

An explosion of color, texture and form highlight the 2009 Summer Exhibition at the Preston Contemporary Art Center, Mesilla, NM, opening with a reception for the artists on Friday, July 10 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. The exhibition features works by abstract painters Arturo Loya, Diane McGregor, John Ochs, and Allison Renshaw and digital artist Myriam Lozada-Jarvis. The show, which celebrates the beginning of the gallery's second year, runs through Sunday, Sept. 27

Abstract oil painter Diane McGregor lives and works in her studio located on five acres of high mountain desert outside Santa Fe, NM. Nature has always been a significant factor in her environment and profoundly inspirational to her work. McGregor methodically weaves together horizontal and vertical brushstrokes, generating a grid-like structure. She uses fan brushes, giving a delicate complex weave to the web. As the composition gradually emerges from the matrix of layered brushstrokes, the artist intuitively responds to the subtle balance of form, color, and texture that has been created.

Three things motivate and shape the work of Kansas City painter John Ochs: pure pleasure, challenge, and the engagement in a visual and critical dialogue with other painters, past and present. Harkening back to the style of the Abstract Expressionists, Ochs' paintings put form before content. Using dynamic color combinations, he manipulates layers of shellac into broad biomorphic forms, creating tension with signature curvilinear strokes and rectangular borders. His works have been described as exploratory in nature, investigations of complementary and contradictory form and color, relationships and media.

The paintings of Allison Renshaw emphasize forms in motion and the seductive qualities of color. What best differentiates her paintings from other works of the

abstract genre, however, is her ability to fuse into their content a distillation of things from the real world. She takes imagery from nature, from architecture, machine forms or figures, and in the process, bends visual reality in a body of work she titles “Fragments.” About this body of work she explains that she is interested in how memories occur and connect a life of partial meanings. Memory and fantasy synthesize and unravel like a half-remembered dream. Renshaw lives and works in Encinitas, CA.

Myriam Lozada-Jarvis was born in New York City and lived in nearly every borough before moving to Las Cruces, NM. Her work reflects the quick-paced flow of an infinite number of visual details, sounds, and the feelings of moving through that charged urban environment. Lozada-Jarvis’ interest in all things new in art lead her to adopt a computer to create energetic compositions printed on paper or canvas. Her approach to these new tools remains similar to her traditional use of paint and ink. She creates brush strokes that contain bits and pieces of other images that are either photographs or drawings she has made using traditional techniques, resulting in digital images that suggest multiple meanings and open interpretations.

The Preston Contemporary Art Center is pleased to introduce emerging artist Arturo Loya. A native of Chihuahua City, Chihuahua, Mexico, Loya has resided in the Las Cruces, NM for three years. Trained and licensed as an architect in Mexico at the Technical Institute of Chihuahua, Loya realized his preference for minimalist design. His uncle, the notable abstract artist Carlos Estrada-Vega, recognized Loya’s promise as a painter and became his mentor. Loya’s style has developed from early representational works done in Mexico to his current body of abstract pieces that reference the minimalist architecture he designed.

The Preston Contemporary Art Center is located at 1755 Avenida de Mercado (at the end of Calle de Mercado), Mesilla, NM. Gallery hours are Wed – Fri, 1 – 5pm; Sat, 11am – 5 pm; Sunday, 1 – 5pm and other times by appointment. For information call 575-523-8713 or visit www.prestoncontemporaryart.com.