

For Immediate Release

On Sunday, December 4, 2011, the Placitas Artists Series continues its 25th Anniversary Celebration Season with the presentation of the art of Barb Belknap-stained glass, Diana Martin-beaded jewelry, Susan Reid-acrylic painting, Laura Robbins-mosaics, and Judith Roderick-silk painting and silk quilts with a reception at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. The works will be on display from December 1st to December 31st.

Barb Belknap, owner of Placitas Art Glass, majored in animation at Carnegie-Mellon University and worked for three animation studios. In her twenties, she worked as an artist in an ecclesiastical art studio. Belknap opened an art glass studio in New Mexico in 1986, where she met her husband, Ty. The Belknaps became owner-publishers of the Signpost newspaper in 1993, as well as founding Albuquerque Arts Magazine in 1997. In 2011, Belknap was chosen by the New Mexico Committee for Women in the Arts and the Center for Contemporary Arts as one of 130 “outstanding New Mexico women artists” to show in their fine arts exhibition “18 Days” at the Munoz Waxman Gallery in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Diana Martin lives with her dog, Mr. Muffkin, in Albuquerque, NM. A self-taught student of fine crafts, throughout her adult life she has explored macramé, weaving, basketry, fiber sculpture, and now enjoys sculpting beaded jewelry. Throughout the years her creations have been displayed in many stores and galleries including the Museum of Contemporary Art gift shop in Chicago, Mariposa Gallery in Albuquerque, and most recently Pismo Glass Gallery in Denver for their 2010 bead invitational. In addition to the personal challenge of mastering art crafts in many forms, Diana enjoys teaching these skills.

Laura Robbins creates non-traditional mosaics that primarily incorporate cut and fused glass with hand formed ceramics. She also utilizes natural and man-made objects. Her imagery explores spontaneous design, mythical, natural and environmental concepts. Laura’s work can be seen at the new Bio Park Insectarium and as this year’s Globalquerque Music Festival poster art. She has completed commissions for residencies, businesses, and schools throughout New Mexico and elsewhere, including the Range Cafes, Bosque School, Sandia Prep, Amy Biehl High School, and Accion New Mexico. She is currently co-spearheading the multi-panel, seventy-foot-long Placitas community mosaic mural, Protect Our Wildlife Corridors. This project has involved hundreds of community members and seeks to raise awareness of New Mexico’s indigenous animals and their need to travel to maintain genetic viability.

Susan Reid was born in New York, and she has made Albuquerque her home since 1973. Her father, a professional artist, encouraged drawing and painting, yet she was in her 40s before painting seriously. While having taken many art classes, she considers herself primarily self taught. Reid has been represented by Matrix Fine Art in Albuquerque since 2006 and has had two solo shows there. Her work is in private collections throughout the country.

Judith Roderick touched upon the batik process, wax resist on cotton, while a painting and design major at Carnegie Tech in the 1960s, and that FIBER THREAD has run throughout her life. She batiked for decades, creating wall hangings, clothing, and quilts. Since 1982, she has been painting on silk, concurrent with oil, acrylic and watercolor painting, raising a family, printmaking, photography, owning Village Wools a fiber supply store in Albuquerque for 10 years, teaching, a career in wearable art, and retiring from all of those. The cloth still calls; the dye on the silk is still a familiar and magical way of expression. Her current subject matter is cranes and other birds, flora and fauna, the beauty and diversity of nature. She is enjoying spiraling back to some of her earlier focuses of quilts, block prints, and artists’ books. She finds the quilts are very satisfying for her now, a way to take silk painted images to another level. She paints the silk in the summers and finds that making the quilts is a perfect winter activity-- slow, complex, and very meditative.

For more information about the artists, you may visit www.PlacitasArtistsSeries.org/decemberc.html

For more information concerning ticket sales, times and locations, please see page 2.

A reception for the artists will be held at 2:00 pm on December 4th, prior to a concert by the Texas Gypsies. Tickets for the concert will be available at the door one hour before the concert, or may be purchased in advance at La Bonne Vie Salon and Day Spa in Homestead Village Shopping Center in Placitas, Ah! Capelli Salon & Color Studio in Enchanted Hills Plaza, Rio Rancho or on-line at www.PlacitasArtistsSeries.org. Prices are \$20 in advance. At the door prices are general admission: \$20 and students: \$15.

This project is made possible in part by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, and the National Endowment for the Arts. The facility is completely accessible. Las Placitas Presbyterian Church is located six miles east of I-25 on NM 165 (exit 242.) For more information call 867-8080 or visit www.PlacitasArtistsSeries.org.

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Placitas Artists Series
www.PlacitasArtistsSeries.org