

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On Sunday, February 12, 2012, the Placitas Artists Series in celebration of its 25th Silver Anniversary will present the art of Marjie Bassler, Ilena Grayson, Katherine Irish Henry, and Karl & Mary Hofmann with a reception at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. The works will be on display from Jan. 28th to March 3rd, 2012.

Marjie Bassler's love for creating brightly colored, whimsical paintings of animals began in her youth in New Hampshire where she was surrounded by the family's many animal friends. Since moving to New Mexico in 1980, Marjie has had paintings accepted into juried exhibits and shows nationwide as well as participating in many invitational and group exhibits. She has served as Co-Director and Curator of the New Mexico State Fair Fine Art Gallery, was on the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Arts & Crafts Fair, and has been a juror and judge for art shows.

Ilena Grayson has a Master's Degree in Art Education from the University of South Florida and, after graduation, chose to be a studio artist. Having grown up in Colorado and now living in New Mexico, she has been influenced by the colors and cultural diversity of these western states. She has exhibited in galleries, art centers and museums across the United States and internationally for over 40 years. Grayson's work is also in several permanent collections including the Albuquerque International Airport.

Katherine Irish Henry was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, but grew up in Decatur, Illinois. Katherine's earliest memories of finding pleasure in art production began at an early age when she discovered images of masterpieces in the World Book Encyclopedia. Katherine studied art at DePauw University with William Meehan and attended the Tyler School of Art in Rome, studying with Stephen Greene. She also interned with Willard Midgette in New York City in 1974. Katherine received a Master's Degree in Art Therapy from Pratt Institute. She worked with homeless schizophrenics from 1976-1982. During this time, she painted and drew many of the people she encountered in a homeless shelter, and on the subways and streets of New York. She befriended members of the Street Painters, including Myron Heise, and attended art critiques in the Bowery. She also took a number of classes at the School of Visual Arts, Pratt Institute, and the Art Students League. She was a frequent visitor to New York galleries and New York's many magnificent art museums. Katherine's first one-woman show was in New York at the Marie Pellicone Gallery in 1982.

Karl and Mary Hofmann's influences include Meissen porcelain and folk pottery of Karl's childhood home in Germany, wedging and throwing techniques learned in Japan, and the Southwest landscape, as they have been Placitas residents for 30 years. The Hofmanns met while studying at Michigan State University. Karl later continued his studies at Columbia University, and then earned an MFA Degree in Ceramics and Sculpture from The Ohio State University. Mary received an MA in Painting and Art History from Michigan State University. Her work has been exhibited in the National Serigraph Society show. Retired from Sandia Prep, Karl has given workshops and served as a juror and participant in juried shows throughout the country.

To learn more about the artists and their websites, please visit www.PlacitasArtistsSeries.org/februaryc.html .

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

A reception for the artists will be held at 2:00 PM on February 12th, 2012, prior to a concert by Jason Vieaux, Guitarist. Tickets for the concert will be available at the door one hour before the concert, or may be purchased in advance at The Merc Grocery Store in Homestead Village 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 Artist Series
www.PlacitasArtistsSeries.org