

Littleton Independent

New members bring new visions to Depot Arts Center



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“First Impressions” is an annual exhibit of art by new members of the Littleton Fine Arts guild, an organization started in 1962 as the Pioneer Art Club. By 1967, the name had changed to Littleton Fine Arts Guild, but the purpose continued to be to offer opportunities to paint together, with a qualified instructor, and to sponsor periodic art exhibits for the members.

Guild members began to wish for a place of their own, and the historic Santa Fe Depot entered the picture.

Since 1976, the Bicentennial year, after Guild members restored scrubbed, polished and painted via a bicentennial grant, the Depot has been the Depot Art Gallery, showing mostly its members’ work, with regular exceptions such as the annual All Colorado Show during Welcome Week.

Members volunteer to sit one day a month to host visitors to the gallery and collaborate on committees to arrange the various themed shows through the year. A selection of pottery, jewelry and note cards by members is also available.

The old, red, 19th century Santa Fe Depot seems especially cheerful as it welcomes 13 new members who have joined the Littleton Fine Arts Guild in the past year. They are a versatile mix, displaying watercolors, acrylics, oils, drawings, batiks, ceramics and photography through Feb. 19.

Next in line will be an exhibit called "Escape into Arts," followed by a 60th anniversary show in April. All except the New Member and Christmas "Holiday Express" show are juried by outside professionals.

Inside the door to the left are four, large watercolors by Sue Williams, three photos by Jean Lamont and a wet technique watercolor by Kitty Marini. On the table is a selection of pots by Joni Leib. Janet Schoniger's "Low Tide" is an intriguing collage that includes tiny starfish and shells on top of a finely detailed painting.

By contrast, Cheryl Adams' "Retired Workforce" is a conti crayon drawing on dark paper showing old rusted parts.

Eva Kraus' "Prague" is a mellow glimpse of that lovely old city painted in oil, while Anna Marie Linning shows a grouping of intricately painted batiks on the back wall.

This is just a partial look at the front (baggage) room. It holds more work and there are two additional rooms to explore, along with bins of unframed original art.

Other new members include Audie Beller, Greg Chapleski, Debbie Griffith, Christine Johnson, Helen Matthews, Sally Van Der Kamp and Lynette Wilson.

Prospective members can pick up information at the Depot, which is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. Upon application and a review by a committee of artists who create similar work, applicants are notified of acceptance. In addition to helping run the Depot gallery, they pay \$45 annual dues and share in committee duties to keep programs running.

The Depot Art Gallery is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays at 2069 W. Powers Ave. The gallery is north of the courthouse and Buck Recreation Center, where it was moved by the City of Littleton, which was persuaded to accept it from the railroad in 1965, through the interest of Edwin A. Bemis, former publisher of the Littleton Independent and executive vice president of the Littleton Historical Society. The city maintains the exterior and guild members maintain the interior of the cozy old building.

For information, call 303-795-0781. Admission is free.