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santa fean

June/July 2018

the
art issue

\$5.99



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MUST-KNOW ARTISTS

Meet some of the most accomplished and interesting artists showing in Santa Fe's galleries. Painters, sculptors, jewelers—we have them all.



Below: Adam Thomas Rees, *Turning Fish*, polymer clay over mixed metal, 6 x 3 x 9"

ADAM THOMAS REES

Patience and precision are the cornerstones of Adam Thomas Rees's sculptures. Fascinated by nature as a young boy, Rees dedicated much of his time to understanding the ways of the natural world. A meandering career in art finally led him to his medium of choice: polymer clay.

His work pays homage to the complexity of the animal kingdom. The armatures are made of mixed metal then cloaked in an ornate scheme cut from canes (long, handcrafted rods of multicolored clay). Frogs, rabbits, ravens, and fish are among Rees's menagerie. Magic, yet real, these improbable creatures reflect their natural counterparts . . . until they don't. Rees considers where the sun would naturally rest upon a snout, or where a shadow might curl under a belly, but the mystery lies within the woven scales of pinks and greens and the scenes seemingly stamped onto the façades of his subjects.—*Erin Sparkman*
Canyon Road Contemporary, canyoncontemporary.com



Above: Nance Franklin, *Sweet Abundance*, oil on canvas, 18 x 24"

NANCE FRANKLIN

The wondrous beauty of nature captivates Nance Franklin. The fruits and flowers she shows at Signature Gallery are often solitary, or at most, a part of a small grouping, yet their intricacies unveil a whole world of their own. The ever-changing world around Franklin dictates the direction of her art, and in fact, a drastic change in her own life greatly affected the direction of her artistic side.

In 2007, Franklin suffered a severe spinal injury, a bad accident she feels was also a blessing. The stillness of healing and necessity of learning a new way of living opened her eyes to the immense and incomparable beauty of the natural world. Through her body of work, Franklin strives to show others the same beauty she discovered years ago.—ES

The Signature Gallery, thesignaturegallery.com

MARTHA BRAUN

Texture, color, and composition are key facets of Martha Braun's abstract mixed media paintings. Her time as an interior designer required the same eye for coordinating a room, with its contrasting components, as her paintings do.

Braun explains, "I believe that the many years I worked as an interior designer, surrounded with color, texture, and composition [and] the challenge of creating beauty and excitement by combining those elements has sharpened my senses and influenced how I paint today."

Braun's works explore the complex interaction between line, color, space, and movement. Furthermore, she says, "I attempt, in each painting, to offer a unique and delicate sense of balance and tension that at once excites and then quiets the mind."—ES

Ventana Fine Art, ventanafineart.com

Right: Martha Braun, *Step Into the Future*, mixed media, 36 x 36"

