

Fair City

SANTA FE GEARS UP FOR SUMMER, ITS BUSIEST SEASON, WITH A PACKED SCHEDULE OF ART FAIRS AND ASSOCIATED EVENTS.

SANTA FE REALLY heats up in summertime. The capital of New Mexico boasts the second-largest art market in the United States and is a meeting point for contemporary art and its Indian and Spanish cultural heritage. As Santa Fe celebrates its 400th anniversary, the wide variety of art events this summer reflects the dynamism of a city that embraces both its future and its past.

William Dillard's famous adage "location, location, location" rings true for this year's Art Santa Fe, which will return to downtown Santa Fe's convention center from July 16-18. The "green" building boasts 40,000 square feet of event space, allowing this year's show to really stretch its legs. The fair's coordinator, dealer Charlotte Jackson, says she is "especially excited" to celebrate Art Santa Fe's

10th anniversary in this new locale. "This is the first time we've had this much space—the additional space is going to make the show a really unique experience."

Part of what will make this year's experience unique is the show's new format. Attendees will be able to stroll along a 16-foot aisle, or "grand concourse," as Jackson calls it, with booths, or "grand salons" arranged tangentially for easy browsing. Fair-goers will even be able to dine on site, at the show's very own pop-up restaurant, Café Arté.

Art Santa Fe has partnered with local artists to create "Conscious Acts," a series of large scale, installation pieces on display throughout the convention center. Beth Rekow's *Veins* will incorporate recycled plastic to simulate a web overtaking the building. Working

with the state of New Mexico in efforts to develop ecotourism, Eileen Braziel has curated a multi-artist, multimedia installation piece centered around an 18-foot tipi built by Billy Valenzuela. The tipi functions as a backdrop for video artists Max Aalmy, Teri Yarbrow, Susanna Carlisle and Federico Muelas.

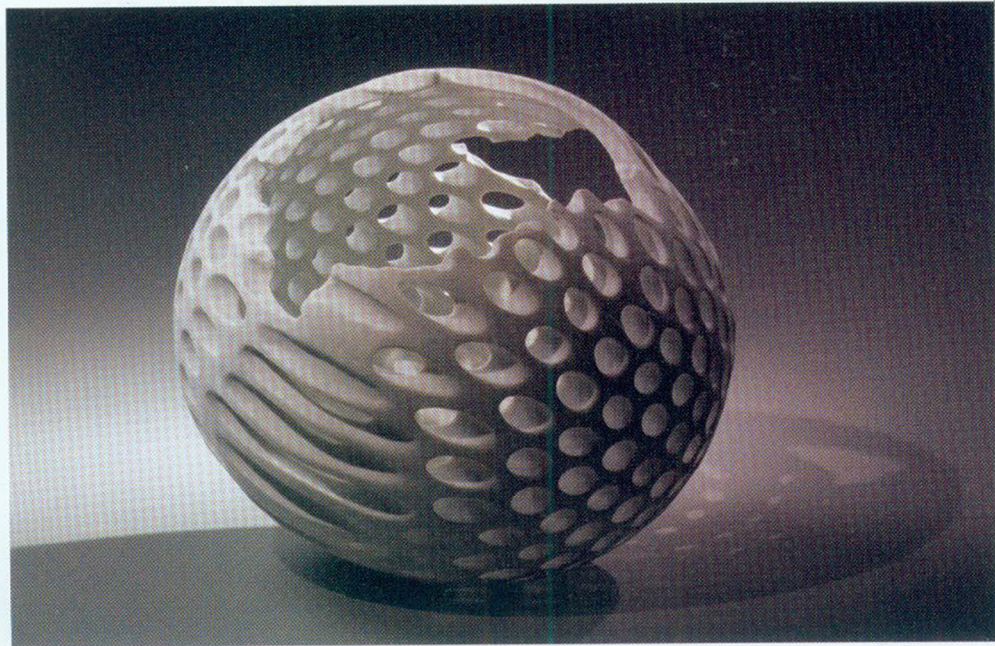
The show's special events strive to educate attendees about all forms of art-making and appreciation. The keynote speaker, Roberta Smith, art critic for the New York Times, will speak on the 17th, and back for its second year is the special exhibition "How Things Are Made." This series of educational demonstrations is scattered throughout the fair and will allow visitors to watch the making of art objects first-hand. Last year's participants, Landfall Press, will return to give a demon-

stration of etching techniques, which date back to medieval times. Bullseye Glass Co. will also be staging a kiln-forming glass program taught by Ted Sawyer.

Participants in Art Santa Fe include not only local galleries but dealers from around the country and the world. Though The Monroe Gallery of Photography calls Santa Fe home, it is offering two color prints by Stephen Wilkes with New York subjects: *Washington Square, Day into Night* (2009) and the panoramic *The High Line* (2009). Berlin's Walter Bischoff Galerie will display Friederike Oeser's *Was Ist Zu Sehen 1* (2008) in its booth, and Galerie Renate Bender of Munich will feature *Network FR6 (16)* (2007) by Peter Weber. All four pieces are estimated to sell between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Jackson, who besides her duties at ART Santa Fe is also the owner of Charlotte Jackson Fine Art, a mainstay of Santa Fe's contemporary art scene, explains that "the show doesn't just happen here. Because of the beautiful site and strong historical commission, international exhibitors will come for the fair and make a vacation out of it. People come for the whole experience."

Also at the convention center from July 8-11 is SOFA West, the southwestern edition of New York and Chicago's premier show for contemporary decorative arts and design. Last year's inaugural show drew 10,000 visitors; this year the fair will return with 35 dealers and works by emerging and established art-



ists and designers worldwide

Among the returning dealers is Clark + Del Vecchio of Santa Fe (formerly Garth Clark Gallery of New York), showing sculpture and contemporary Native American ceramics by Christine McHorse. **Among the first-timers is Joan Mirviss of New York, a specialist in contemporary Japanese ceramics, who will feature porcelain sculpture by Sakurai Yasuko.** Also debuting is David Richard Contemporary, a new gallery in Santa Fe that represents glass artists including Laura de Santillana of Venice, whose *Light Violet Bodhi* of blown and silvered glass will be on display.

Acknowledging that collectors want to know more about Santa Fe's cultural heritage, SOFA founder Mark Lyman has launched a three-day event that will take place before the fair, July 6–8, titled "Historic Bond/Contemporary Spirit: Collecting New Southwest Native Pottery." The event will feature presentations by artists, curators and collectors, as well as tours of historical sites, collector's homes and museums around the area.

The 59th annual Traditional Spanish Market will be held July 24–25 in the open air, on the Santa Fe Plaza. The event features the work of over 200 local Hispanic artists who

employ traditional techniques. From bonework and *colcha* to hide paintings and *ramilletes*, the fair's wares combine the intricacies of the old with the innovations of the new. Collectors will see such pieces as *Cuña de Milagro*, a straw appliqué crib fashioned by Marisol Zia Sánchez y Lucero. The piece is priced at around \$1,650 and was inspired by a collection of *cuñas* in the royal palace in Aranjuez, Spain. Also for sale is Irvin Trujillo's award-winning textile *Made in the Shade*, which is woven with hand spun vegetable-dyed wool and priced at \$2,500.

Of the exhibitors this year, show director Bud Redding says, "I'm continually amazed by the exceptional quality and creative approaches to the particular art form and the personal research and experimentation within the tradition. Many of the artists continue to strike out in new ways and follow their muse, reviving long

forgotten or neglected artistic traditions." The show, along with its sponsor, the Museum of Spanish Colonial Art, also supports emerging artists with a separate youth exhibition area at the fair and a panel discussion that will be held at the museum on June 20, as well as a supplemental exhibition at the museum titled, "Spanish Market Gallery."

Santa Fe's 88th annual Indian Market will also be held on the Plaza, August 21–22. Comprising over 1,200 artists from 100 tribes displaying their work at 600 booths, Indian Market is the country's premier event for Native American art. The fair is also Santa Fe's most highly attended annual weekend event, and attracts an average of 100,000 visitors, who are given the opportunity to meet the artists and craftsmen who produce the work.

The weekend begins on the 21st at 5pm with the Indian

From left: Peter Weber, *Network FR6 (16)*, 2007; tin mirror shown at Spanish Market.

Market Gala and Auction, which brings together the finest Native American art in the country and its top collectors. The signature lot is a "collaborative" butterfly necklace, which was designed and wrought by four award-winning Native American artists: Veronica Benally, Fritz Casuse, Cody Sanderson and Roderick Tenorio. The necklace takes its inspiration from nature, with sterling silver, gold, and precious and natural gemstones

winding together like vines. It is valued at \$39,000.

Overlapping with the Indian Market for one weekend is The Santa Fe Show: Objects of Art, which will be held at El Museo Cultural from August 13–22. The show encompasses a wide variety of genres and cultures including Asian art, devotional, fine art, furniture, Native American, jewelry, Modernism, textiles, and Tribal art.

—SARAH E. FENSOM

