

Local artists get 'Now' showcase

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a Navajo jeweler who was trained in mechanical and architectural drawing.

"It's spectacular," Connors said. "I think it will be one of the highlights of the show. I love it because it's work by a Native American artist in Native American vocabulary and he is pushing beyond anything we've ever seen before."

Nelson said the person who commissioned the bolo tie requested he use black jade and black opal that he gave Nelson.

The artist also incorporated sterling silver, 14-karat gold, turquoise, oxblood coral and more exotic stones with his own ideas for geometric shapes.

Nelson has shown at the Santa Fe Indian Market and at Wright's Indian Art for many years.

Another artist in the museum show is Carol C. Sanchez, a veteran Albuquerque printmaker who is showing her mezzoprint titled "No Notion of Time."

She said the print is a metaphor about time — "the sense of time. We don't have time to complete things. Life is so fast-paced. How much time has passed and how little time we have."

"It's pretty exciting to see in the last 10 years more of a diverse and professional group of artists in Albuquerque," Sanchez said.

She has a studio at the Harwood Art Center, where she works and teaches students how to make prints.

Internationally known Native American painter Jaune Quick-to-See Smith of Corrales is showing a large painting called "King of the Mountain."

Connors said it is "a modern, politicized updating of the children's game King of the Hill in which cultural groups are fighting to subjugate the others."

Smith is of Salish, French-Cree and Shoshone heritage.

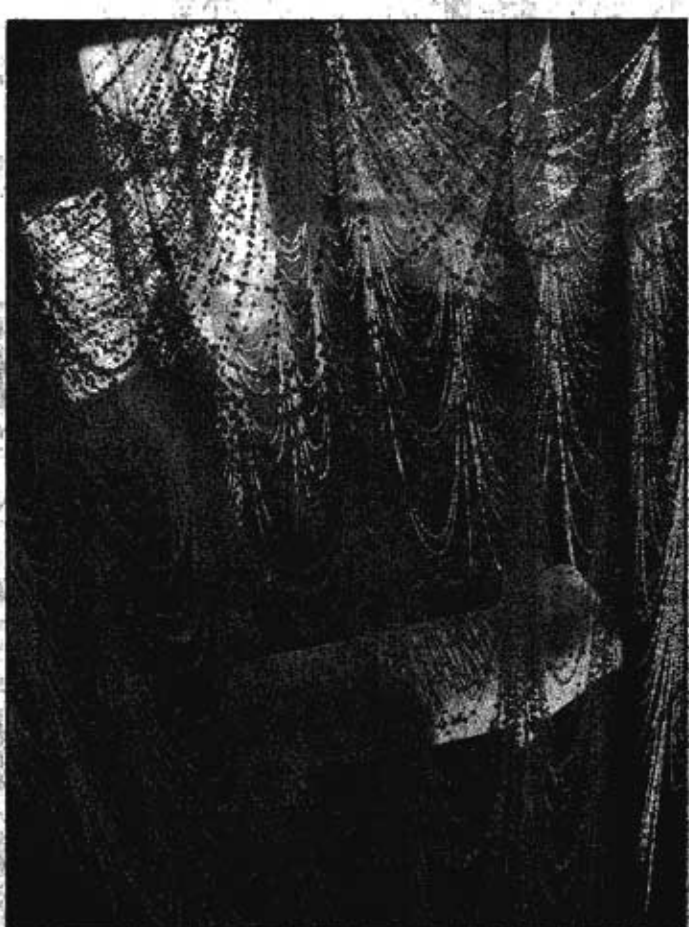
Another longtime Albuquerque artist in the exhibit is photographer Joel-Peter Witkin, whom Connors said is probably better known in Europe than in his hometown.

He referred to Witkin as "a local industry in terms of the number of people he hires to help him with his incredibly complex stagings of (his) photographs."

The Witkin photograph in the exhibit is titled "Life Is an Invention: The Constellation of Balthus."

Connors said Witkin's preparations for this photograph involved hiring an artist to paint the background, buying costumes at many local used-clothing stores, hiring local models and commissioning a vessel from a local ceramic artist to use as a prop.

Albuquerque's Rini Price



Jennifer Vasher's photograph "The Tylenol Room" is in the "Albuquerque Now" show.

has an acrylic on canvas titled "Bloody Hell" in the exhibit. Connors described it as a standing figure whose gender is unclear, painted in shades of red with a "disconcertingly calm expression. There's nothing very violent about it except for the gesture of brush strokes and the reddish colors."

Price said she is pleased to have the exposure by being included in the show.

"I have worked most of my life in an isolated fashion. It's where I'm comfortable," she said. "So since I am rather reclusive with my work, I still want it to exist in the world. I've worked here for 51 years."



Rini Price's acrylic-on-canvas work "Bloody Hell" was selected for the "Albuquerque Now" show at the Albuquerque Museum.

