

Wildflower Village
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Wildflower Gallery Hosts Photography and Pottery Exhibits on October Penultimate Saturday

Wildflower Village, a unique artists' haven with two art galleries on West Fourth Street, holds a reception featuring new photography by MJ Carr and featuring pottery by the Wildflower artists who work with clay on the Penultimate Saturday of October, the 22nd, from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.

New Photography by MJ Carr

MJ Carr has been photographing Nevada for years. She moved from the Midwest to Reno in 1999 and began capturing images that inspired her sense of beauty. Captivated by the visual fabric of the state, the people and the remnants of their past, she attempted to translated it onto a one-dimensional plane.

"The American West," Carr says, "has provided me with a wealth of images. The terrain changes with the shifting of the seasons and the passing of the sun. The skeletal remains of countless ghost towns offer a poignant beauty."

MJ Carr has a BA in Theater Performance from Kent State University and has completed course work towards a Masters Degree in Theater/Film Criticism from the University of Kansas. She has received many awards from the *Nevada Magazine* photo contest and has also been published in *Nevada Magazine*. She frequently travels as the staff photographer for KNPB, Channel 5's *Wild Nevada*. Her images are used in a variety of ways to support that series. MJ Carr is also host and writer of the KNPB series, *House with a History*.

Carr's new photographic works will be on display at the Wildflower Village Penultimate Saturday artists' reception in the Open Door Gallery.

"As with any photographer," Carr says, "the images that I capture are those that appeal to me. They are shapes, patterns of light and dark, found art that exists quietly in a world too often cluttered with neon. The texture, the colors, the composition -- I search for a sense of harmony. My photographs are not complex -- and yet I would hope that one could find complexities within them."

Wildflower Pottery

The potters of Wildflower Village will display their new and extraordinary works at Wildflower's Open Door Gallery at the Penultimate Saturday reception. Featured potters include Mimi Patrick, John Karrasch, Dale Pappas, Paul Herman and Jill Brugler.

Born and raised in Reno, Mimi Patrick lives in Gold Hill. For eight years there she has owned a pottery studio and shop, the Argenta Earth & Fire Company.

Potting for 34 years, Patrick concentrates on sculptural pieces, many of which she calls whimsical. "It's just such a wonderful, forgiving material," Patrick says about clay, "and there's so many things that you can do with it. The ideas are just unlimited."

Her partner, John Karrasch, has been creating functional pottery for more than fifty years. Karrasch owned a shop and studio next door to Gold Hill, in Virginia City, in the 1950s. For almost 25 years following that, he had a shop in Reno

on Dickerson Road. After a stint back home in St. Joseph, Missouri, Karrasch returned to northern Nevada, where he has been at Argenta in Gold Hill with Patrick.

Having received the first BA in ceramics from USC, Karrasch went on to earn the first MA in ceramics from the Rhode Island School of Design. He has studied with the likes of potter greats like Susan Peterson, Vivika and Otto Heino, and Dorothy and Lyle Perkins.

Dale Pappas, who has lived in Reno all his life, also creates primarily functional pottery and has been potting for about 18 years. He uses alternative firing to create various colors on his pottery, incorporating other things besides glazes, like salty iron, corn silk, feathers, small leaves, horse hairs and tin foil.

“I’m very, very precise,” Pappas says, “in the way I do my stuff. I don’t want any toxicities. I pride myself on making good solid glazes that fit my pots that are user-friendly.” His user-friendly pottery is microwavable and dishwasher-safe.

Paul Herman has been a professional potter for 31 years. A graduate of Hug High School, he has lived near Doyle, California, since 1983. He calls his style that of a “contemporary wood-firer.”

Herman likes to create art that is functional. “In today’s world,” he says, “it fills a gap where very little of what we use is hand-made. People respond to it.”

Jill Brugler’s works are figurative, a type of pottery inspired by the human form, and sculptural, a type of pottery that lies on the opposite end from the functional work of Herman, Pappas, and Karrasch. Having potted for 25 years, Brugler teaches pottery at Wildflower Village, the Nevada Museum of Art and VSA Arts of Nevada.

“Clay has the plasticity,” Brugler says, “where each potter handles it in their own way. We’re reinventing in our own way. At this show, you will be able to see the variety and properties and the movement of clay.”

Wildflower Village

Wildflower Village is a unique artists’ haven with two art galleries on West Fourth Street. Just five minutes from the neon of the arch and casinos, Wildflower is a village worlds apart. The pace is peaceful, yet vibrant with art, creativity and beauty. Located on six acres alongside old U.S. Route 40 west of downtown Reno, Wildflower is blooming with artists’ creations – and these days, with hillsides of wildflowers. A dozen or more of the artists who exhibit in the galleries live in the village. Wildflower houses 4,000 square feet of art in two galleries featuring more than 75 artists, an espresso café, wedding chapel, bed and breakfast rooms and motel, artists’ studios and apartments. Between Johnny’s Little Italy and McCarran Boulevard on West Fourth Street, the Open Door Art gallery is open from noon to 6:00 seven days a week; the Chapel Gallery, noon to 6:00 Tuesday through Saturday. Information at 827-5250 and wildflowervillage.com.

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