



“Arrival of Spring”

Spring is a time of renewal and the gallery is full of new happenings and inspiration.

This spring Tom Palmore is back, bringing his unprecedented style and uncompromising dedication to detail. Palmore’s work touched my soul from the first time I saw it 22 years ago. His work has forever changed my view of art. Experiencing his work is a must and the opportunity is now.

Other artists such as Shirley Novak, continue to fill the gallery with bright color and vision. Gardens delightfully filled with red poppies and yellow daisies, her work is painted with femininity, texture and sophistication.

The snow has melted, the sun is shining and art is abundant.

Shanan Campbell Wells,
 owner ★

An Exciting Turn of Events

Nestled in the small town of Durango, Colorado, Sorrel Sky Gallery has held itself as an exception to the precariousness often found in bigger cities and metropolises. Our community is strong, our mountains are beautiful and there is immense inspiration here. For a brief moment in time, not soon forgotten, an event that would create hope and encouragement occurred in the gallery.

On November 17th, 2008, an armed robber entered the gallery and held a staff member at gunpoint as he emptied three cases of jewelry by Ben Nighthorse into his backpack. Clearly having done his research, he stole almost sixty pieces, the majority of which were 18 kt gold, from the Nighthorse collection. Several of the pieces had been on display at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of the American Indian. Leaving no one harmed, but taking with him a body of work representing years of custom craftsmanship, the robber walked out of the gallery and disappeared.

That night, and in the days following, a series of other robberies occurred in Durango. Despite these shocking events, the outpouring of support from the Durango community, family, friends and clients was overwhelming. We did not feel taken advantage of, as we were strong in our presence. We did not feel alone because of all that flocked to help. And, we did not feel resentment as it was our thought that the robber was on his own destructive path. Although the gallery’s outlook remained positive in the months to follow, hope of recovering the jewelry began to wane.

In January of 2009, through an exciting turn of events, the Las Vegas Police Department discovered a large number of stolen items in a raid, including twenty-five works from the stolen Nighthorse collection. Ben Nighthorse inscribes each of his creations with the Cheyenne Morning Star, a symbol of hope and guidance. Given this distinctive insignia, signature style and one-of-a-kind design, police were able to trace the works to their rightful owner.

Thankful to have a large part of the collection back and grateful that no one was hurt, Sorrel Sky Gallery continually strives to maintain a positive outlook, focusing on thoughts of understanding and forgiveness. ★



Top to bottom: Concave Rock Art, Running Horse and Basket Weave Bracelets of 18 kt gold and semi-precious stones



Ray Tracey

Internationally and nationally renowned artist, Ray Tracey, is recognized as one of the most respected contemporary Native American jewelers. A member of the Navajo tribe, Ray was born in Ganado, Arizona. He made his first piece of jewelry when he was ten years old and by the age of twenty-one he was successfully involved as a professional jewelry artist.

Although Ray has taken numerous classes at prestigious jewelry schools, he is primarily self-taught. Drawing from skills that are passed down generation to generation in American Indian tradition, he forms his inspirations into wearable jewelry. These inspirations are gathered in a variety of ways. Whether jotting ideas on restaurant napkins, having thoughts come to mind while golfing, or simply eating a piece of chocolate, Ray describes his design ideas as what comes into his mind at different moments rather than anything that is forced. He is never resting on his laurels and is always moving forward to create, acting on creative energies that he is filled with.

"Designing jewelry is a gift. It's a God-given talent. The inspiration hits me. Without it, I can't design my way out of a paper bag," Tracey says.

Ray is a very versatile artist, designing not only traditional Navajo old style jewelry but cutting-edge contemporary designs as well.



Silver inlaid bracelet with turquoise, coral and onyx

His inlay with semi-precious stones such as lapis, coral and turquoise into sterling silver and 14 kt gold, is unmistakable. He also incorporates faceted gemstones, adding a special touch to his unique pieces.

Currently living in New Mexico, Ray's newest collection called "Native Samurai" is his vision of harmony of cultures: the richness of the Native American culture and the beauty of the Japanese culture. Symbols used in these exquisite pieces combine motifs of traditional Samurai costumes and the landscape of the Southwest.

The words, timeless, classic and enduring, aptly describe the work of Ray Tracey. ✨



Silver pendant with turquoise, coral and onyx



Shirley Novak

Born and raised in California, Shirley feels her inner voice has called her to paint for as long as she can remember. Her childhood passions were growing, drawing and painting flowers. She majored in art and took many workshops and classes over the years, eventually turning her attention to painting full-time under the tutelage of her mentor, Len Chmiel.

"Color, intense and delicate color harmony, has always moved me emotionally. My love of flowers and love of color are the passions that drove me to become a painter," says Novak.

Shirley paints in oils using a method of wet paint into wet paint. With this technique the painting is created in one layer, typically using opaque or semi-opaque paint. Colors applied are left "as is" sometimes blended using a brush or cloth to create the desired effect. Shirley continues to experiment with acrylic under-painting and oil scumbling technique to broaden her ability to express her evolving vision.

She paints in plein air as much as possible, either in her garden or on location when she travels. Shirley says, "My garden gives me great joy and countless ideas for painting. Each year I let nature have her way and let seedlings sprout in new places and in new combinations



"Poppies and Pansies" 24" X 26" oil

I wouldn't have thought. There are surprises in every corner of my garden."

Shirley and her husband, wildlife artist Ralph Oberg, share their main studio overlooking the San Juan Mountains of Colorado. Shirley also has her own summer studio aptly named "Poppy Cottage." Possessing great notability for the imagery she paints, she is truly an example of what she learned in art classes taught by Mark Daily. "Paint what you love, and let your work become known for this."

Having works that are included in many permanent and prestigious collections, Sorrel Sky Gallery proudly embraces and displays new paintings by Shirley that arrive throughout the year. ✨



"Facing the Morning Sun" 10" X 18" oil

Limited Edition Giclée

Giclées first arrived in the art world in the early 1990s and are the newest form of fine art reproduction, coveted for their fidelity and quality. The word giclée, (pronounced “zhee-clay”), is derived from a French word meaning to spray or splash. In this process, highly sophisticated Iris ink jet printers are used to reproduce the original work of an artist.

Using literally hundreds of colors depending on the imagery, inks are sprayed onto either paper or canvas. This spraying actually mixes the color on the surface to create truer shades and hues. The giclée is widely accepted by artists because of its use of archival materials and precision in representing the original in final production.

Limited edition giclées are unique in that they are made in a limited amount then signed and numbered by the artist.

Two numbers are used to mark the print that has been produced. The top number signifies the specific piece in that edition. The bottom number represents the number of pieces in the edition.

Often, the artist, with paints and gesso, embellishes limited edition giclées. This gives a feeling of texture and dimension that would be seen in the original. Sorrel Sky Gallery artist Carrie Fell, hand embellishes each one of her prints with her signature thick acrylic strokes, adding a personal touch and individuality to each print.

Limited edition giclées are a wonderful way to collect a variety of artists and art in an economical way, while still enjoying high quality and exclusive imagery. ✨



“Tall Order” 43” X 67” embellished giclée on canvas



“Home on the Range” 41” X 75” embellished giclée on canvas



“Free Range” 40” X 60” embellished giclée on canvas

www.sorrelsky.com

View available and new works by Shirley Novak, Ray Tracey, Jim Eppler, Carrie Fell, Rory Wagner, Tom Palmore and more, on our website. ✨



Jim Eppler

Jim Eppler is an artist in the truest sense - he takes the world around us and recreates it. He has been praised for his lifelike creations and his gentle interpretations. It is Eppler's respect and appreciation for nature that allow his art to flow so freely.

Eppler developed this love for the environment at a young age. Before

becoming an official student of art, he unknowingly had been preparing to be an artist. As a small child growing up in El Paso, Texas, Jim would spend many hours outdoors, observing animals to sketch and paint. After moving to Lubbock, Texas, he took his first art class in high school. Eppler continued his official studies at Texas Tech University, earning a BFA in Studio Art. Never limiting his studies to the classroom, Jim has spent many hours capturing on film every aspect of nature.

Eppler says, "Wildlife has always fascinated me. As a child, I enjoyed watching various animals, and spent countless hours observing them, sketching, and painting them. I consider those adventures of my childhood a rich gift which I still enjoy to this day."

Multitalented in the arts, being a seasoned painter as well, Jim brings his skills as a colorist to his sculpture by hand finishing each bronze in his limited editions. Drawing from his intricate knowledge



"Raven with Habanero" 19" X 14" bronze

of his subject matter, he applies distinctive markings unique to each species, using patina and paint. Subtle details of movement are emphasized and seen in his work.

"I create pieces that have meaning to me with the hope that the observer of my art experiences some part of the inspiration I felt while creating," says Jim.

Highly respected by both colleges and collectors, Jim's public installations include a wide range of locations, from the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, National Exhibits Foundation, Booth Museum, and the Benson Sculpture Garden. His works can be seen in many other public and private collections and are displayed throughout Sorrel Sky Gallery. ✨



"Magpie III" 17.25" X 5.6" X 3.5" bronze

2009 Calendar

- May 1 Wine Tasting for the Durango Wine Experience, 4–7 p.m.
- May 8 Spring Gallery Walk, 5–9 p.m.
Featuring jewelry artist Ray Tracey
- Sep 12 Tom Palmore One Man Show
Opening Reception, 5–7:30 p.m.
- Sep 18 Fall Gallery Walk, 5–9 p.m.
Featuring jewelry artist
Toby Pomeroy
- Oct 2 Bonnie Conrad Reception,
Durango Cowboy Poetry, 5–7 p.m.
- Nov 28 "The Collected Short Stories of
Louis L'Amour–Volume 7 Frontier
Stories" Book Signing with
Kathy L'Amour, 12–3 p.m.



New Work—"Mayan Queen" by Tom Palmore

For more than 35 years, Tom Palmore has painted animal portraits with a reverence for his subject and a masterful technical prowess. His ultra-real portraits of animals in oil and acrylic offer a unique and often comical juxtaposition of technical literalism and surreal, imaginative context. When asked what his paintings are about, he says, "They're about other earthlings that we share this planet with...and about our relationship with them."



New Work—"Strength of Character" by Rory Wagner

Wagner is uncompromising in his work. "It takes me hours and hours, day upon day, to complete every one of them," Rory says. Because of this intense scrutiny, few originals are completed in a year, making the release of this newest limited edition giclée on paper an exciting event. With a unique deckled edge, "Strength of Character" measures 30 x 25 and is available both framed and unframed.



Durango Wine Experience

With over eighty wineries in attendance, Sorrel Sky Gallery is proud to be participating in the Durango Wine Experience for the third year. Please join us for a wine tasting event in the relaxed, intimate setting of the gallery on Friday, May 1st from 4:00-7:00 p.m.

