

Opening

Recent Works by Ruzina Busch and Debbie Dennison at the High Road Marketplace Gallery in Truchas

As the trees turn magnificently golden, consider a drive up to Truchas to experience the art of local artists Ruzina Busch and Debbie Denison. They will be exhibiting new works at the High Road MarketPlace throughout October, with an artists' reception on Saturday, Oct. 11 from 3 to 5 p.m.

Ruzina Busch is a multitalented artist who works in diverse media from handmade paper to watercolor, fabric to acrylics. She crafts jewelry, sculptural vessels, and collages from these varied materials. Her work has a modernist slant, especially her collage work. There are themes of New Mexico and pieces that reflect the artist's inner seeking.

Busch has been showing at the High Road MarketPlace since its inception. One of her paper bowls is in the permanent collection at the Governor's Palace, and she collaborated on a piece at the World Trade Center.

Debbie Denison is a talented painter and printmaker whose works have also been featured at the High Road MarketPlace for several years. A self-taught artist from Chimayó, Denison has been exploring Native American themes in her most recent works. This trend started last year with her amusing "Rude Tourist" series (including "Rude Tourist Takes Grandma's Chair" and "Rude Tourist Takes Grandma's Picture"). These paintings featured vividly colored, modernist impressions of Pueblo villages.

Her recent works have developed those themes further. The annual deer dance at San Ildefonso inspired two major works. In "Blessings of the Deer and Corn Pollen," abstract figures emerge from a dark background. They are women in shawls casting golden corn pollen on two deer dancers as the women and the "deer" bless each other. In "Return Call/Return Caw," the lead dancer, Raven, sends a call up to an actual raven perched on a nearby house. The dancer's breath vaporizes in the cold morning air.

Denison also painted a large painting of a dance at Acoma Pueblo, which she donated to the High Road MarketPlace. Sale of this painting will benefit the MarketPlace. Denison feels she owes her success to the MarketPlace, which was the first gallery to exhibit her work. Today, collectors often purchase Denison's originals before they ever reach a gallery. However, giclees

of her paintings remain available.

In works such as "Dance Break," the brilliantly colored Pueblo houses are even more abstract, while the human figures are more detailed. "Dance Break" features teenage Pueblo dancers in full regalia who are slouching around, conversing with the opposite sex, and behaving much like teenagers. "She Leads Me Forward" has a more serious subject. A figure that is identifiably Maria Martinez, the potter from San Ildefonso, leads a group of women and girls, followed by male singers and drummers. Martinez has inspired Denison by "her courage in the face of personal difficulty and the quiet spirituality which flows from Maria's pottery." "She Leads Me Forward" is a tribute to Martinez, who is a spiritual muse for Denison.

Denison has long admired Pueblo pottery and took a course with two of Maria Martinez's granddaughters, Kathy Sanchez and Evelyn Naranjo, which exposed her to the spiritual aspects of the art. Her admiration and love for the work has recently found expression in still-life paintings of the pottery. "I realized I'm not a potter; I'm a painter. And that my paintings can be my way of honoring the beautiful pottery of the Pueblo people."

Many of Denison's paintings are inspired by dreams. Other times, she performs "automatic painting," where she is led to paint without knowing exactly what she is painting. One of these is "The Return of the Dine from Bosque Redondo," which shows spirits of the Navajo returning to their homelands after their Long Walk and confinement in eastern New Mexico, where many died.

Denison moved to Chimayó in 2001 from Texas. Forced by illness to give up her career, she began painting. She has recently begun exploring the long-hidden Native American heritage of her own family in Mississippi.

Essentials:

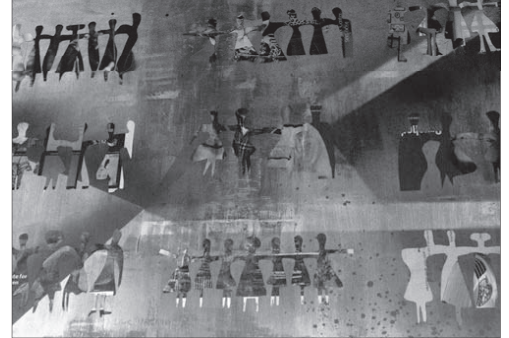
What: Exhibit of new works by artists Ruzina Busch and Debbie Denison

Where: High Road MarketPlace, 1642 State Road 76, Truchas

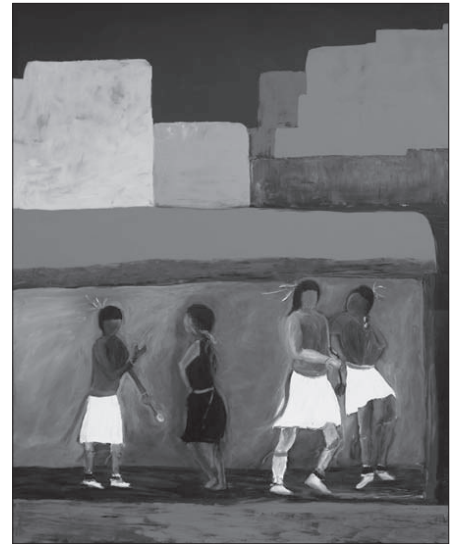
When: Through October; Artists' Reception Saturday, October 11, 3-5 P.M..

How Much: Free

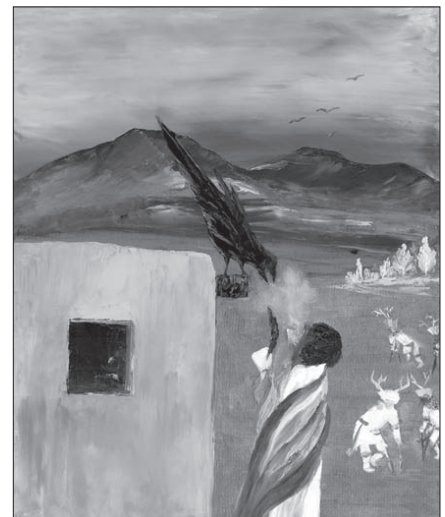
Info: Debbie Denison, 505.351.1381, or High Road MarketPlace, 505.689.2689



Ruzina Busch



'Dance Break' - Debbie Dennison



'Return Call' - Debbie Dennison