

Spring Arts exhibits wrap up with a roar

Amid the thundering roar of motorcycles and an occasional afternoon thunderstorm, thousands of art-goers packed Taos galleries during Memorial Day weekend (May 29-31) for the third and final weekend of the Taos Spring Art Celebrations. Here is a sampling of what they saw.

Taos Fine Art

Gallery owners Chuck and Suzanne Perna put together a show that further bolsters their mission of exhibiting fine works of art in their gallery, housed in the historic Hattie Trujillo building near Taos Plaza.

Their newest is "Mimi Chen Ting and Richard Alan Nichols," which opened with a reception Saturday (May 29), and runs until June 12.

"I am filled with wonder about nature," Chen Ting says about her reaction to landscape. "Much as a farmer listens to the seasons, I honor the natural rhythms of life."

The Oriental influence in her work could simply be taken for its exotic quality — no kachinas, adobe haciendas or rustic cowboys here. But, on its own merit, the grace of each brushstroke, in concert with her tightly composed large canvases, leads the viewer's eye on a journey that is both aesthetically pleasing and contemplative.

Born in Shanghai, China, Chen Ting came to America to study sociology and literature in 1965. Eleven years later, she received a degree in art from San Jose State University in California. She maintains homes in San Jose and Taos and has shown her work in numerous exhibitions throughout the United States and the Pacific Basin.

Nichols' work shares with Chen Ting an aesthetic that tends toward the minimal. But on closer inspection, his softly

lit, mist-enshrouded landscapes are finely worked surfaces in which delicate pastel colors and intricately executed gestural patterns create the impression of a monochromatic palette.

Nichols describes the act of making art as a process in which he stretches out "to touch the land, with the sensation traveling through my brain down to my right hand holding the brush."

He is referred to as "a national artist whose work is sought after for his atmospheric color theories and his warm, sensitive approach."

— Rick Romancito



Nichols and Chen Ting
at Taos Fine Art