

ARTIST PERSPECTIVES

THE ORIGINAL SANTA FE TRAIL

was a legendary route for trading goods, including arts and crafts, gold, silver, and turquoise. The view from the trail, although beautiful, was limited by the hills and canyons that surrounded the traveler. However, you could get an entirely different perspective if you climbed to the peak of nearby mountains, where you could not only see what was coming but also get a remarkable perspective for miles and miles that was filled with intrigue, excitement, and awe-inspiring beauty. The lesson learned is that perspective is everything. The exhibition titled *Artist Perspectives* follows a local tradition of examining viewpoints and the manipulation of various materials from different personal perspectives. In what was likely the biggest and most exciting opening of the year, a packed house consisting of local artists and collectors and an amazing group of prominent artists from Los Angeles and New York City descended upon Santa Fe to generate an unusual energy, not often seen here. Donald Sultan was on hand to sign his latest book, which weighs about ten pounds and is as impressive as his grand-scale abstract deductions of flowers and fruit.

Curated by Peter Marcelle, this group exhibition gathered together a variety of perspectives from the artist's point of view, celebrating inventiveness combined with a recognizable individual style. A good cross section of local talent shared the walls with art-history heroes like Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Alexander Calder, Wayne Thiebaud, and Damien Hirst. Among those artists who live in the Santa Fe area were Christopher Benson, whose painting of a kitchen, *Tiverton Interior*, has a magical quality, and may have taken a cue from the Diebenkorn that was hanging nearby. Raphaele Goethals' *Dust Stories* might have been "kicked up" from a local corral, but also made a remarkable background for the Robert Graham installation of marvelous small-scale figures for which the late artist was famous. Darren Vigil Gray's hauntingly beautiful portrait, *Ancient One*, was a small gem, along with Karen Kitchel's masterful close-up studies of flowing grass. Carol Mothner's photorealist portrait of a young girl, *Attitude, Elizabeth, Age 16*, was stunning, as was Michael Scott's *I Want to Be a Cowgirl*, which added some classy humor with an image of a flying dog that would make Salvador Dalí jealous. Paul Pascarella's massive three-paneled work, *Winter Solstice*, tipped its hat to Pollock and Cleve Gray, and David Solomon's organic forms on aluminum rounded out the great showing of these talented Santa Fe artists.

Celebrated sculptor Deborah Butterfield led the stable of artists with a magnificent sculpture of a resting horse created from recycled yellow metal

fragments. Nature was the inspiration for a number of paintings such as Doris Downes's purple, flowering plants, that seemed to have sprouted from an alien seedpod. Dan Rizzie's deco-flavored fragments. composition of abstracted plant forms provided a handsome partner to Kryn Olson's *Generations*, a combination of a two-dimensional Calder hanging shape as a base to support large colorful leaves. Christopher Armstrong's *Carousel* offered a meditative seascape with a vanishing line that honors the natural beauty of the sea. Two hyperrealist works by Marc Sijan, *Security Guard* and *Brief Peek*, were appreciated as triumphant illusions. Andy Warhol was represented with a classic portrait, an iconic soup can, and *Andy Warhol's Living Room, New York House 1987*, an altered photographic interior

of Warhol's uptown brownstone—including the Pop artist posthumously seated in a chair—by David Gamble. Michele Francis offered a triptych that felt like it was lifted from an urban scene that is both flat and spacious at the same time. Eric Ernst's *Look Into the Air* spun with a circular motion, portraying a futuristic stained glass window into the future. *Those Hours After Church*, by Edward Holland, combined collage elements with paint, producing a charming yet simple composition that substituted as a visual short story. Other artists represented in the exhibition include Carol Anthony, Erik Babcock, Gregory Botts, Michael Glier, Dennis Leri, Gwynn Murrill, Albert Paley, David Slater, and David Solomon.

—BRUCE HELANDER



Christopher Benson, *Tiverton Interior*, oil on canvas, 74" x 60", 2010