

Pippin PR – group show May 9/10

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PRESS RELEASE

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Passport to the Arts – Meet the Artists Painting at Pippin Contemporary

Pippin Contemporary's group show by eight artists will celebrate the Santa Fe Gallery Association's Passport to the Arts promotion with a gala opening from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, May 9. The same group of three gallery artists and five guest artists will be featured the next day, Saturday, May 10 in the Pippin Contemporary Art Tent as the gallery's entry in the annual Quick Draw event, in which attendees can watch an artist complete a work of art in two hours or less.

The artists at Pippin Contemporary will include gallery artists Cody Hooper, Michael Ethridge and Sandra Duran Wilson.

Michael Ethridge began his art career in Wynne, Arkansas, under the capable tutelage of his mother, Mrs. Dick Ethridge, who was an accomplished wildlife and still life artist. Ethridge's art is represented by some of the most prominent galleries across the country. The prestigious *Art Business News* recently named Ethridge as one of today's top artists. An abstract expressionist, Ethridge is both an artist and a profession musician.

Cody Hooper grew up in North Texas and now lives and works in Santa Fe and Albuquerque. His passion for art began at a young age. As a child he was surrounded by art and music, along with the beauty of the Southwest landscape, inspiring his interest in fine art. He began with representational work in watercolor, and moved into abstraction in several media. Hooper's work is a bold mix of styles, ranging from sleek and contemporary to weathered and organic. His work is featured in private and public collections worldwide.

Sandra Duran Wilson is a third-generation artist with roots in Mexico, Spain and Italy. She comes from a family of artists and scientists and combines her background in both fields to express her style of painting abstract stories. She will use imagery from scanning electron microscopes along with textured surfaces from paints she

has made. She has been painting professionally for over 15 years and has her work in many public and private collections. She received her BFA and her BS from the University of New Mexico. She has lived and worked in Santa Fe, NM for over 30 years. Her work is continually evolving and growing as she explores the edge of materials science.

Five guest artists will join the members of Pippin Contemporary's stable for the group show and Quick Draw event. They include Becky Brennen, Ann Marie Trapp, Oliver Polzin, Jason Appleton and James Roybal.

Becky Brennen recently moved to Santa Fe from Carmel, Calif., where she trained with Roberto Lutetti, who also trained William Acheff and others. She considers herself a "contemporary realist," painting mostly still lifes and florals, in oils. They are, she said, "slightly surrealistic."

Ann Marie Trapp, known for her watercolors of the Southwest, has been painting in New Mexico for almost 10 years. Most of her learning has come from intense workshops and classes, and she is always looking to experiment with new techniques, new painting surfaces, and new color combinations.

Oliver Polzin received his BFA in painting from Arizona State University in 2009. He is another contemporary realist. He described his work as "a smattering of scapes, scraped, swabbed and scribbled, once or twice drip dribbled, to ask questions sized or little, of likeness in the world. Wish, want or quarrel, stare at least a grain, hopefully a pebble."

Jason Appleton is a neo-modernistic contemporary artist based in Santa Fe. He admires Santa Fe's beautiful light: "grey, gold, pink all mixed in one..." He is looking forward to painting outside soon.

James Roybal was born in 1952 in Santa Fe. He knew from an early age that he was an artist. Roybal got his first taste of casting bronze at age 12 from public school teacher Earnest Badyinski. He was lucky enough to have that teacher also in high school and worked with him in his studio casting bronze during summer vacations. Roybal attended Highlands University and finished his formal education at New Mexico State University. After college, James worked in foundries casting bronze for him and others. In 1983 he became a full-time artist. His first juried show, while still in high school, was in 1971, and he has had shows in over forty galleries around the United States. Roybal has his work in collections around the world, in public museum collections. His reputation now includes that of a fine arts painter in pastel and oil. "I am always looking for new challenges," he said. "Each painting or sculpture brings new ways of seeing. Working in bronze and painting has opened new horizons for me."

Located at the gateway to historic Canyon Road, Pippin Contemporary, founded May 2011 by artist Aleta Pippin, is committed to showing abstract art that is fresh and vibrant, as well as collectible. Pippin Contemporary's artists, selected for their energetic and tactile expressions, celebrate life with colorful and authentic insights, expanding the realm of possibilities in their artwork. Their expressions range from abstract paintings to sculpture in stone, metal and glass, bronze, and kinetic sculpture.

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