

Quarry Cove Art Gallery, *Southwest Impressions*, exhibit of paintings, photographs, and sculptures

Reception with the Artists, Saturday, August 19 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Transporting us away from the West Coast, *Southwest Impressions* is a breathtaking exhibit honoring the Southwest. In 28 artworks, longtime co-exhibitors Margaret Welch and Judy Quitarano illuminate the sculptural drama of the Southwest's rock formations and cliffs. They also highlight the beauty of local architecture and art inspired by natural forms shaped by centuries of weather and geological processes.

Creating with watercolors, acrylics, and pastels, Margaret Welch portrays the multifaceted beauty of the Southwest and the nature-inspired forms and designs of local artisans. In the acrylic painting *Desert Rock Formation* and the watercolor painting *Desert Forms*, Welch captures the subtle hues and complex shapes and angles that comprise dessert cliffs and skies. Her paintings represent two moments, one at sunrise and the other at dusk, respectively, when one contemplates both the grandeur and the intricacies of the desert. In *Southwest Art*, Welch uses pastels to celebrate the region's pottery and textiles. She has created a still life of umber and sepia in the pottery and bright sun colors, aqua blue, and violet in traditionally patterned textiles. Welch brings to this exhibit her amazing expertise as a painter and her compassionate heart of 91 years.

In her photographs, paintings, and sculptures, Judy Quitarano expresses her admiration and appreciation of the Southwest, which she has developed during her many visits to New Mexico. In her collection, she explores the heart of nature's beauty with its unlimited palette and linear development. In the photograph *Cliff Sculpture*, Quitarano captures the gradients of color and sculptural elements of the cliffs near Ghost Ranch, contrasted with the brilliant blue sky, marbled with clouds. She honors the Taos Pueblo community in the paintings *Taos Pueblo*, a street scene of a local shop with a kiva oven for baking bread, and *Chapel Taos Pueblo*, a study of the architecture and spirituality of the chapel. Her acrylic painting *Blue Gate* and photograph *Gate with Riesta* laud the local community tradition of saving and restoring "welcome gates" and their unique designs

and colors. Her abstract sculptures *Southwest Madonna* and *Synergy* appeal to the imagination and embody a sense of hope. Offering her compelling and personal impressions of an area dear to her heart, Quitariano has created a strikingly beautiful and thoughtful spectrum of art that evokes a desire to visit and enjoy the Southwest.

The Pacific Art Connection proudly presents *Southwest Impressions* through September 23, 2017. You are invited to attend a reception with the artists on Saturday, August 19 from 2 to 4 p.m. Quarry Cove Art Gallery is at 225 Rockaway Beach Avenue next to Avani Salon, open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cindy Chan