

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

from: Artisans of the Southwest / Wen Saunders / 970.264.4486
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subject: SCHMICKLE ART IN LOCAL GALLERY
ART OPENING RECEPTION & SHOW



photos: additional photos available upon request

Guy Schmickle Joins Local Gallery with Opening Reception for Art Show.

Guy Schmickle, digital landscape photographer, is joins as one of twenty artists at Artisans of the Southwest Gallery.

Artisans of the Southwest Gallery hosts the *Land & Vineyard*, May 23-June 19, in the gallery located at 175 Pagosa (and 2nd Street). The show consists of an array of original digital landscape photographs by Guy Schmickle, Bayfield, Colorado and Vineyard photography art by Wen Saunders, Pagosa Springs Colorado. **Opening reception (and talk with the artists) for the show is Saturday, May 23, 4:00-6:30 p.m.** Complimentary food and refreshments will be served. Most gallery artists will offer 10% art discounts on art purchases during the reception.



Maroon Bells in Autumn, Guy Schmickle



Sandstone Swirls, Guy Schmickle

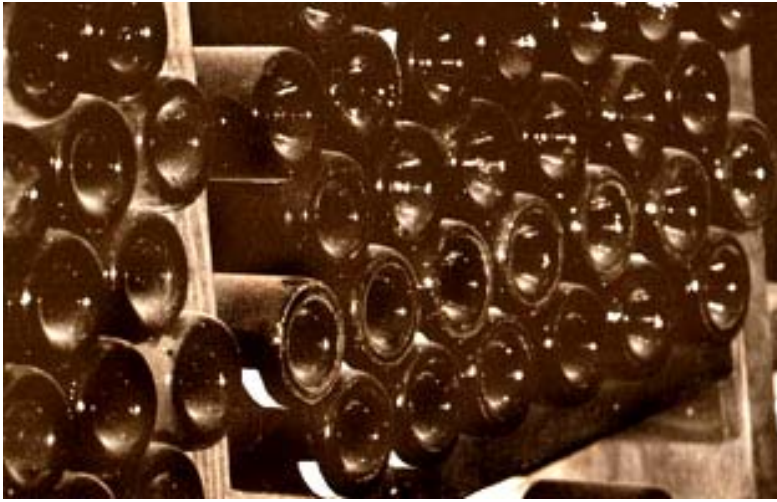


Horseshoe Bend Sunset, Guy Schmickle

Guy Schmickle giving voice to the land he photographs.

Arriving from Minnesota, Schmickle found a new land filled with inspiration: the American Southwest. With his wife Tami, he settled in the small community of Bayfield, Colorado soaking up breath taking scenery at the doorstep of the San Juan Mountains. Capturing the qualities of light, texture, combined with sky and air, Schmickle captures the essence of the landscape through digital photography. He ensures a scene is optimally captured in the camera (most times awaiting for the most enhancing natural light scenario) and works to bring subtle nuances of the image in the digital darkroom.

His images depict the rigidity and strength of the mountains and rock formations, as well as the serenity of a moving body of water. He has always been at home in the computer world, stepping down from a lengthy career in software engineering to pursue a dream. This makes more sense knowing he personally custom prints his images. By printing his images, he controls the color management of each image created by digital darkroom techniques creating a vibrant metamorphosis of color and dimension in his photographs. "I have an earnest desire to give voice to the land through my images", states Schmickle.



Wine Bottles, Wen Saunders



Colorado Wine Grapes, Wen Saunders

Vineyards- A Wine Exploration.

Many know Saunders for her images featured in *American Cowboy Magazine* and *Western Horseman* magazines (rodeo and western photographs from the *Greeley Independence Stampede*, *National Western Stock Show*, and *National Finals Rodeo*). Through her artist vision, rendered through both medium and 35mm camera formats, a mesmerizing tension emerges from the unpredictable sense of rodeo. Saunders's images go beyond the "ride" of rodeo, as she photographs moments before and after the ride. Fascinated by darkroom black and white printing techniques, Saunders produces hand-printed fiber archival black and white images in her personal darkroom, lasting for generations. "The image the camera captures is true. The darkroom printing brings the image to life", states Saunders.

Wen Saunders is the Gallery Director and owner of Artisans of the Southwest (opened January 2009). She has been a photojournalist covering life's events for over thirty years. She continues to photograph and hand-print custom print black and white photographic images on fiber archival papers in the traditional darkroom, a lost art in today's digital photography world. Displayed art show images are a few of over 10,000 images she photographs yearly. This series of images is part of a 100 limited edition series of photographs, signed and numbered by Saunders. Saunders also produces a limited series of color and sepia images. In *Vineyards*, Saunders images include both digital and film photographs from a variety of vineyards throughout the United States including wineries in California, Colorado, and Virginia. Artisans of the Southwest wine tasting room will open in mid June (within the gallery) and the show of vineyards images by Saunders represents some of her travels and experiments with the wine selections for the tasting room and a prelude to the opening of the wine tasting room. Complimentary wine tasting will be available during the reception.

An Interactive Gallery Setting.

Artisans of the Southwest opened in January and features artists including Sandy Applegate (watercolor with pen & ink), Wen Saunders (Black & White, Color Photography, unique cards), Smithe Eugene (jewelry and gifts), Kent Shafer (oil), Greg Hudson (kiln fired stained glass), T. Cutter Collins (photography scenes and western bolo jewelry), and John Mikoni (pastel). These artists will also feature new work during the show. Visiting artist, Robert Bridges, is also showing contemporary digital canvas photography through June 19. Artisans of the Southwest Gallery (and coming soon in June – the Wine Tasting Room) provide an "interactive" setting for both the artisan and patrons. Artisans are active within the gallery and providing the artisan with instantaneous patron feedback on their work. The artists at the gallery provide demonstrations, artisan talks, and workshops of their work. "An evolution of artisans keeps the gallery aspect fresh and inspired for patrons", states the gallery director Wen Saunders. Hours are daily, noon-6:00ish pm (closed Sunday & Tuesday). The gallery offers locals and visitors a creative daily Art Happy Hour with special art sales and complimentary coffee from 2:00-4:00 pm and 5:00-6:00pm. For more information contact, Wen Saunders, gallery director at 970-264-4486 or 303-517-3741, or visit the web site at www.artisansofthesouthwest.com.

