

August 18 - September 21, 2023



# Seen/UnSeen: an invitation to presence

A group exhibition featuring  
Staci Dickerson, Shelly Franklin,  
and Brenda Peters

**Generously sponsored by Kat and Pete Rich.  
Thank you!**

At the Carbondale Arts Gallery  
in The Launchpad (76 S 4th Street)  
[carbondalearts.com](http://carbondalearts.com) | 970-963-1680  
Open weekdays 10am - 5pm

## About “Seen/UnSeen: an invitation to presence”

These 3 featured artists are longtime Roaring Fork Valley residents. Staci Dickerson paints on a variety of substrates primarily using oils, cold wax medium and other mixed media. Shelly Franklin uses natural materials and florals to express her designs and also creates the ceramics vessels that embrace her compositions. Brenda Peters paints on canvas with acrylics, but using a stick rather than a brush to blend color to reflect the many moods of her works.

These artists join together to highlight the liberation that abstract work inspires & explore the beautiful differences three artists can create.



*“Shadows” by Staci Dickerson  
Oil and cold wax medium on linen*



*Arrangement by Shelly Franklin*



*“Rite of Summer” by Brenda Peters  
Acrylic on canvas*

**STACI DICKERSON**  
**Carbondale, Colorado**

Staci Dickerson, a 43+ year Carbondale resident, began her journey as an artist in the late 90's. She has not stopped exploring her artistic voice since that time.



Staci is a staff member of Carbondale Arts, a dynamic art organization that nurtures and supports her passion for the arts in her own life, in the lives of her fellow artists, and in that of our communities.

She shows her work frequently in local and regional art shows winning numerous awards including the prestigious Carbondale Arts Valley Visual Art Show People's Choice Award in 2006, 2012 and 2017; Juror's Choice Award, First and Second Place Professional Category Glenwood Springs Fall Art Festival. As well, she has displayed at the Colorado State Capitol and had a solo exhibit at Morgridge Commons, a CMC ArtShare Gallery.

Being the consummate student, Staci, throughout the years, has studied painting, drawing and the creative process with a wide variety of teachers. She completed the Art 2 Life-Creative Visionary Program in 2018 and the The Artists Mindset Program in 2022. As often as possible, Staci attends Anderson Ranch courses and lectures as well as continued self-study in the arts.

In the fall of 2009, Staci returned to school with a declared major of Visual Art; she received her BFA degree in Visual Art from Naropa University in May of 2011.

Staci states, "I explore and enjoy the challenges of abstract artistic expression. I savor the unique journey I take with each painting as I discover my particular voice as a curious, introspective and passionate painter. I have enormous gratitude for the opportunity to add a little beauty to the world through my vision and expression."

Her work may be seen at her home Art Studio as well as in private collections around the country.

Learn more about Staci:  
Instagram @stacilane72  
stacid72@gmail.com  
970.379.9419

**SHELLY FRANKLIN**  
**Aspen, Colorado**



As an abstract floral artist, I strive to create original arrangements using plant material. Sofu Teshigahara, the founder of Sogetsu, (the avant garde school of Ikebana) uses “a fresh approach” as one of his guiding principles. I embrace this principle, along with color, line and mass, to connect nature to any space or place of my choosing. The perishable quality of this work creates frequent opportunities to grow and expand.

Originally from California, I am a longtime Roaring Fork Valley resident, and have raised my family here. I am formally trained in floral design, and am a student of Sogetsu. I am committed to my practice, and love the disciplined freedom required for this art form.

**BRENDA PETERS**  
**Carbondale, Colorado**



**Artist Biography**

Brenda J. Peters is an artist from Carbondale Colorado. Brenda’s paintings illuminate abstracts with a unique expression of colors and shapes. Her early works focus on an abstract-contemporary style while her recent works exhibit some impressionistic styling. She is inspired by nature, the weather, and changing moods and colors both bring. Brenda’s ability to mix and layer color and infuse light and shadow is extraordinary.

She starts with raw canvas and uses wash form acrylics to apply color layers into abstract designs and scenery primarily using a small stick to paint with. Only recently has she started using a brush to blend the color edges on some of her paintings. “My work comes from my heart and soul”, says Brenda, and her passion shines through in her paintings.

Brenda was born and raised in Leamington Spa, England, and moved to London as a young woman. She enrolled in a textile design class where her raw talent was exposed. She completed a one year pre-diploma course at Ealing Art School, London, and then went on to earn a diploma at Portsmouth Polytechnic, where she graduated with First Class Honors. Working from a

studio in Canterbury, Kent, following Art school, she continued painting for several years. It was here she shared her space with an artist from Boulder, CO for one year, and thought about moving to the United States. In 1976, she had an opportunity to earn a Masters in Fine Art degree at Eastern Illinois University. After this, she settled in Boulder and met and married her husband. She continued painting until 1985, when she took a hiatus to spend more time with her children.

Five years later, she moved to Carbondale with her family to live in a more rural part of the state. Surrounded by nature and abundant beauty from every window, Brenda was inspired to begin painting again in 2010. One of Brenda's early teachers commented that all marks are a form of drawing that do not have to be a representation of something recognized. This simple remark opened her imagination to a world of shape and color. Her early work started with drawings using marks that evolved into areas of color to express mood and light. Paintings done in England were mostly somber, reflecting the colors of the weather and the mood of her life.

"Once I stepped into the sunshine and vivid life in Mid-America, color exploded onto my canvases", Brenda remarks. These works show larger and softer shapes and intense, bright colors. Her most recent paintings have evolved, exhibiting colorful layered shapes and scenes, with less controlled lines and more nature inspired hues. Brenda paints from her studio on the grounds of her home which is perched high on a hill overlooking the

Roaring Fork Valley, with majestic Mt. Sopris in the background.

Truly an ideal place for artistic inspiration. Brenda paints whenever she feels inspired, working on several pieces at one time.



*"Tangerine Dream" by Brenda Peters  
Acrylic on canvas*

### **Brenda Peters Artist Statement**

My paintings started as abstract works and have remained so, evolving and continually reflecting where I live during each time period. I began painting when I lived in my homeland of England, with somber colors that reflected the countryside I lived in. Coming to America inspired me to use more vibrant hues. My pieces were

bright , bold and used mainly primary colors, paintings that were alive with joy.

Currently, my work reflects the beautiful countryside I am surrounded by in Colorado, but with a strong abstract element. As a student, one teacher made a comment that gave me the freedom to be an abstract artist. He said all drawing was made from marks: they did not necessarily have to be in the form of something figurative.

My medium is acrylic on canvas. The paintings evolve with many layers of very thin paint. Sometimes, unintended areas are created by the layers intercepting or overlapping, allowing the paintings to take their form without true intention. Beginning a painting is such an exciting and intimidating moment. It takes much thought to make the first mark, whether it be which color, which shape, which direction or where to mark that blank canvas. This is where an impression becomes an expression.

Finally, I feel there is one element that runs through all my paintings: that is their peacefulness. I agree with Wassily Kandinsky 's statement, “ The artist must train not only his eye but also his soul.”

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

### **About our Sponsor**

“Seen/UnSeen: an invitation to presence” is generously sponsored by Kat and Pete Rich who are longtime supporters of the arts in the Roaring Fork Valley and beyond. Thank you!

**Special thanks** to Dave Durrance, Marilyn Lowey, Sally Nicholson, Laura Stover, and David Thickman for gallery preparation, and to Savanna LaBauve and David and Shelly Franklin for install assistance.

## About Carbondale Arts

Founded in 1974, Carbondale Arts builds an inclusive and vibrant community through the arts, supporting Carbondale's identity as a place that fosters creativity, collaboration, innovation, and artistic exploration.

Our dedication to this mission has been transformational to the history of Carbondale. We are made possible by volunteers, the generosity of our sponsors and community partners, collaborations with fellow non-profits, schools, local and state governments, and businesses.

## Know Your Artist, Know Your Art

Carbondale Arts believes in the power of art and we know you do, too. There is a deep connection that happens when you purchase a piece of art, and getting to know the artist makes that connection even deeper. Carbondale Arts hosts over 10 art exhibitions every year. Find some art you love and dive in.

## Gallery Committee Members

**Staff:** Jamie Abbott, Brian Colley, Staci Dickerson

**Non-staff:** Savanna LaBauve (chair), Leslie Neveu, Marilyn Lowey, Nichole O'Neil, Sally Nicholson, Elliot Norquist, Laura Stover, and Matt Vickers

Learn more about this exhibition and visit the space virtually online at [carbondalearts.com/exhibitions](http://carbondalearts.com/exhibitions)



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