

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.

We have launched a “Know Your Artist, Know Your Art” campaign, as Carbondale Arts works to build relationships between artists and patrons. Inspired by the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) model of Investing in local food, this Community Supported Art movement promotes the investment of local artists making a living in and around the newly established Carbondale Creative District, where Carbondale Arts makes its home.

October 9 - November 9, 2020

Shadow Entanglements

Jim Harris

Vanessa Porras



At the Carbondale Arts R2 Gallery
in The Launchpad (76 S 4th Street)
carbondalearts.com | 970-963-1680
Now open weekdays 10am - 5pm

Jim Harris Biography

Jim Harris worked as a ski photographer and writer until he was paralyzed while snowkiting in Patagonia. It took over a week to reach definitive care in the States where five of his nine broken vertebra were fused. “I feel lucky that the doctor never told me I’d never walk again,” says Harris, “There wasn’t much reason to think I would, and I might have believed him.” After his spine fusion he began to wiggle a toe. Within a few months, muscles in both legs began firing. In the five years since that accident Harris has transitioned from wheelchair to walker to trike to mountain bike and continues to challenge the limitations of his disability.

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Jim Harris Artist Statement

“I guess I’ll have more time for art now,” I tried joking as paramedics lifted the backboard. For a decade I’d been making my living in the mountains, first as a hawk biologist, then teaching wilderness skills, then traveling the world documenting expeditions. But now I was on the way to a hospital in Chilean Patagonia and I couldn’t feel or move anything below my sternum. My vertebra had been crushed and I was paralyzed.

In the five years since that accident I’ve experienced an improbable rebound. I progressed from hospital bed to wheelchair to walker to crutches to cane. As recovery slowed, my focus shifted from regaining mobility to rebuilding a sense of identity and purpose. Where my attention once pointed outward towards incredible places and the people, I’ve had to learn to turn that observation inward. That inner terrain is convoluted, rugged as any place stamped in my passport.

Topography of the Self is almost inscrutable. Weather builds and breaks, casting shadows over the range. Storms in the psyche give the landscape scale and depth as shadows slide over folded terrain.

Vanessa Porras Biography

Vanessa Porras works as an educator for Aspen Art Museum teaching primarily for AAM's outreach programs including Mobile Story Art, Pitkin County Jail and Youth Recovery Center at Valley View Hospital in Glenwood Springs. A portion of her teaching time is also devoted to VOICES, a non-profit based out of Carbondale, whose mission is to amplify voices through the arts. Additionally, as an artist, Vanessa works as a printmaker specializing in woodcuts and abstract ink drawings.

Vanessa believes that creativity is paramount because it gives people permission to be vulnerable and powerful; to feel disturbed yet graceful.

Vanessa obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art from Colorado Mesa University in 2018. Art has always been an imperative ingredient to the makeup of her character. She initiated her odyssey back to art after graduating from Colorado Mountain College in 2014, where she received an Associate of Arts in Spanish.

Vanessa Porras Artist Statement

“Entanglements” is a series of studies exploring heredity through patterns and line work found in hair and nature. As I work, allowing my tools to carve the trail ahead, the image begins to present itself to me. What began as an exploration of line work, has now transformed into abstract prints inspired by undulations, topography, braids and lineage. Reminding us that we belong to nature just as much as we belong to those who we call family.

About our R2 Gallery Sponsor

This exhibition is generously sponsored by Kat and Pete Rich who are super awesome supporters of the arts and are constantly inspired by the power of creativity here in our community. Thank you, Kat and Pete!!

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to David Thickman for gallery preparation, to Laura Stover for gallery layout, and Kirk Robinson for gallery installation assistance.

R2 Gallery Committee Members

Staff: Brian Colley, Staci Dickerson, Amy Kimberly

Board Liaisons: Nicholas DiFrank, Leah Swan

Non-staff: Kristi Close, Gayle Embrey, Lindsay Jones (Chair), Vanessa Porras, Kirk Robinson, Laura Stover, David Thickman

These committee members work with the Gallery Manager to choose exhibitions each year. Interested in learning more? Email brian@carbondaleararts.com.