

Spirited and Spiritual at Village Gallery

Monday, February 22, 2010

 Printable Version  E-mail this story



+ click to enlarge

Rima Thundercloud

By J.Yescalis

What do you get when you pair a renowned Southwest photographer - aka 'The Hummer Lady' who holds a master's degree in music therapy - with a Native artist known for designing and marketing Dream Catchers? A highly entertaining and therapeutic evening of art and music, free to the public- and guaranteed to send you out the door with a smile.

Join Featured Artists Beth Kingsley Hawkins and Rima Thundercloud and their colleagues for the Village Gallery of Local Artists' First Friday Art Walk on March 5, 5-8 p.m. in the Village of Oak Creek. The monthly event is free to the public and more crowded each month as local residents and visitors discover the "little gallery that could!"

Beth Kingsley Hawkins and Rima Thundercloud produce artistic creations as divergent as the mysterious canyon formations of the vast high desert plateau of Navajo land in northern Arizona and

the damp crowded floor of the Minnesota forests, yet both have found deep spiritual satisfaction in their work and share the desire to help others find and develop their own "inner artist."

Beth explains her prize-winning style of photography as an experience in "Visual Music": "Like classical music, photographic images of nature can connect us to our own inner imagery. Images can be a source of spiritual nurturance, enabling a more creative and joy-filled life."

A Board-Certified Music Therapist, Hawkins' extremely successful career as a nature photographer was launched in 1993 when she first explored the "slot" canyons on the Navajo reservation. The illumination of the deep and sacred sandstone cliffs created what Beth describes as "a new connection to Mother Earth."

She further explains that after an early visit to Sedona in 1992, she challenged herself to photograph the powerful and iconic Cathedral Rock formation through an entirely new "lens": "I was told by another photographer that pictures of Cathedral Rock were a 'dime a dozen!'"

The result was one of her best-known photos, Inner Cathedral, which she describes with the help of George Bernard Shaw:

"When my Spirit is groping for an illusive mood, my eye shall be caught by the skyward tower, showing me where, within that cathedral, I may find my way to the cathedral within me."

The artist and her husband, Ross, purchased a home 17 years ago that insures a constant spiritual connection with the beloved formation which she refers to as her "Rock for all Seasons, in its many moods, colors and manifestations."- their home is located across from the 'cathedral's' spires.

The scope of Beth's photography extends to all of nature: she is well known for her colorful close-ups of native flowers and luminescent hummingbirds and has been featured in many exhibits and publications. One of her photos was recently showcased in the prestigious "Nature's Best" Photography contest and magazine where she claimed a top prize out of 7,500 entries with her winning image, There's no other way to make new butterflies.

In addition to framed photos, Hawkins' own line of Hummerlady Cards is available at the Village Gallery. To view more of Beth's work, visit her website at www.hummerlady.com.

Rima Thundercloud remembers her Iroquois and Ojibway upbringing in Minnesota and Michigan fondly:

"I remember creating baby blankets by weaving leaves together for my baby dolls at four years of age." It was the beginning of a fascination with nature than included feathers, rocks, shells, and "anything I could transform into a new beauty."

After immersion in the traditions of her relatives and elders, her art career quickly blossomed when- as a single mother of three- she began supporting herself and her children by incorporating her spiritual roots with her love of natural objects, selling her beautiful and intricate feathered ceremonial adornment masks, shields and other creations in shows throughout the country.

In the course of her artistic journey, she has been both learner and teacher, taking time to teach and facilitate shield making and "empowerment through Art" workshops at the Duluth Art Institute in Minneapolis. Her extraordinary artistic creations have earned awards for the artist from such venues as The Minneapolis Institute of Art and The Denver Southwest Native American Art Show, and she has collected multiple top prizes over many years at the New Orleans Mardi Gras Mask show and Maskathon.

In addition to exhibiting at the South Dakota Native Art Museum, Rima designed and marketed - with

advertisement



SEDONA ARTS CENTER

A place where artists and those who love art can teach, learn and explore.

advertisement



A Positive Place for Kids

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

advertisement

the permission of her Ojibway elders an extremely popular line of 'dream catchers, and in a more modern turn, designed a theme T-shirt for the first 'feminist majority conference' in Washington, D.C., "The Girls are back in Town."

According to the artist, "My life is a spiritual journey and my art forms represent what I live, breathe, walk and talk. I feel that my art is the poetry of my being, nature is my pallet, and transformation through ceremonial adornment is my endeavor."

At the Village Gallery, Rima's display includes gemstone jewelry in the tradition of her native roots as well as a formidable exposition of masks and other wearable creations.

The two artists will share their art as well as their positive spiritual vibrations of good will in the form of music and 'drumming' at the Village Gallery of Local Artists First Friday Art Walk, March 5, 5-8 p.m. at 6500 SR 179 at the Cortez Road roundabout, Village of Oak Creek/Sedona.

For more information about the Village Gallery and its artists, call (928) 284-1416 or visit the website at www.villagegallerysedona.com

advertisement



Article Comment Submission Form

Please feel free to submit your comments. Article comments are not posted immediately. Submissions must adhere to the Use of Service section in our [Terms of Use agreement](#). Your comments may also appear in our print edition. The email address you provide is for internal use and will not be visible to the public.

Name:	<input type="text"/>
Telephone:	<input type="text"/>
E-mail:	<input type="text"/>
Passcode:	<p>This form will not send your comment unless you copy exactly the passcode seen below into the text field. This is an anti-spam device to help reduce the automated email spam coming through this form.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"></div> Please copy the passcode exactly - it is case sensitive. <input type="text"/>
Message:	<div style="border: 1px solid gray; height: 80px; width: 100%;"></div>
<input type="button" value="Submit"/> <input type="button" value="Clear Form"/>	

