

# CREATIVE EDGE

## VISUAL ARTS HIGHLIGHTS

### Kerschen exhibits at Las Comadres

Karen Kerschen explores “Sacred Waters” in her window display at Las Comadres Gallery, which is on view now through July 31. Kerschen’s mosaic “paintings” depict the visual presence of water, its sense of movement, majesty, and whim in this semi-arid region, particularly near Ojo Caliente. Other work is on exhibit inside the gallery and the artist also accepts commissions for work. A reception for the artist, to which the public is invited, will take place July 28, 2-6 p.m. at Las Comadres Gallery, 228A Paseo del Pueblo Norte, across from the Taos Art Museum. For information, call (505) 737-5323.

### Fechin acquaintance to speak

The Taos Art Museum’s Summer Lecture Series continues with a lecture and slide show by Elinor Marcek, a personal acquaintance of Nicolai Fechin’s daughter, Eya and the cataloger of the Fechin Family Library. The lecture will take place Saturday (July 21), 6-7 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public. See the entire summer schedule on [www.taosmuseum.org](http://www.taosmuseum.org). Visit the Taos Art Museum at 227 Paseo del Pueblo Norte, or call (505) 758-2690.

### What cost Native fame?

The Institute of American Indian Art Museum’s “Conversations to Remember” series will explore the intriguing topic, “Branding the Native Artist: What does it Cost to be Famous?” today (July 19), 7 p.m., at the IAIA Museum, Allan Houser Art Park, 108 Cathedral Place in Santa Fé.

Panelists for the discussion include Taos residents Tammy and Leroy Garcia, along with Cochiti Pueblo artist Diego Romero. Tammy Garcia is a highly acclaimed pottery maker descended from the Tafoya family of Santa Clara Pueblo. Her husband, Leroy Garcia, owns Blue Rain Gallery, which has locations in Taos and Santa Fé. Romero, a third-generation Cochiti artist, established himself as a force in the contemporary art world with his modern take on Mimbres pottery in the mid-1990s.

Moderator Bruce Bernstein will lead the discussion as panelists discuss the professional and personal challenges



Courtesy Blue Rain Gallery

**Acclaimed pottery maker Tammy Garcia, above, will join her husband, Blue Rain Gallery owner Leroy Garcia, in a panel discussion on the issue of fame for Native artists today (July 19) at the Institute of American Indian Arts Museum in Santa Fé.**

artists face to promote and market their work. In what ways do standards established by institutions, galleries and museums, affect individual practice

and artistic freedom? Do market norms in Native arts inhibit one’s ability to pursue idiosyncratic forms or autobiographical projects? What strategies have

artists used to negotiate the demands of a market that tends to focus on the individual vs. communal aspects of their lives as tribal members?

Bernstein is a prominent scholar in Southwestern Native arts and culture studies. He serves as a management consultant for the Southwestern Association for Indian Arts (SWAIA) and is a curator at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC.

Admission to the event is \$3; free to IAIA Museum members. For more information, call Communications Director John Villani at (505) 424-235, or e-mail [jvillani@iaia.edu](mailto:jvillani@iaia.edu).

### Katrina survivor sells hurricane art

Fifty-year-old artist Debora Gale survived the 2005 Hurricane Katrina and is healing from the trauma by creating art from reclaimed palm fronds, driftwood and metal that were scattered by its winds. Her work can be seen at Taos’s funky new yard art store, YART.

Gale was inspired to create hurricane art when she noticed all the palm fronds scattered along a nearby beach. “These things were tough to survive,” she said. “I pulled out the paints, and so began my healing.” Gale hopes the palm frond faces will “help people wake up from their sadness and smile and feel gratitude for being alive in this moment.”

When Katrina ripped Gale away from her home, she took refuge hundreds of miles away in a small two-bedroom house with 10 other people for three weeks before being able to return home. A sufferer of chronic fatigue syndrome, the stress of the hurricane and the heat during the two months without power were nearly unbearable.

Originally from Alabama, Gale now lives a mile from the coast in Gulfport, Miss., in her “hurricane-battered old shack” as she puts it, “only blocks from downtown, or rather what’s left of downtown.”

Based in Taos, YART is a locally owned, garden-style retail shop that specializes in original and sophisticated yard art, décor, and indoor accents. Regarding YART’s interest in her art, Gale said, “I was so excited! There

EDGE  
Continued  
on Page 10