

MORGAN COUNTY AREA ARTS COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 2009

Artist Profile – HEATHER ARENAS

Jobs have taken her many places but, for Heather Arenas, artwork keeps her grounded.

“I have an appreciation for beauty in strange places,” Arenas, a Wiggins resident and member of the Morgan County Area Arts Council, commented. “My artwork has always been a constant.”

Arenas pursued a pre-med degree at one time in her life but has now turned her passion to painting. Most of her work is done with acrylic paint because “you can watercolor paint with them or mimic oils with them.”

“It’s fun,” Arenas added, “to have the freedom to sit with a brush and let the subject tell you how it wants to be painted and not require a media change.”

Arenas has won awards including having her painting selected by the Fort Morgan Chamber of Commerce as its Artist of the Year. Arenas noted, however, that “it’s not really about the awards. I’m looking to improve my work based on what I think it should become and the response I get from the people that see it. The ribbons don’t do much for me.”

Arenas admires the work of Andy Warhol and Vincent Van Gogh. “I don’t really have a favorite, though. There are so many good ones out there.”

The work of Lanford Monroe, a New Mexico landscape and wildlife painter-sculptor, also interests Arenas. “I saw one of her paintings at the Denver Art Museum and started looking for more.”

Monroe died in 2000 but Arenas has found a book of her work. “Her paintings are so real but the brush strokes are very obvious. I love that.”



Although the works of other artists influence Arenas, she hasn’t had a mentor except books. “I look to the old masters to really give me the freedom to try different things.”

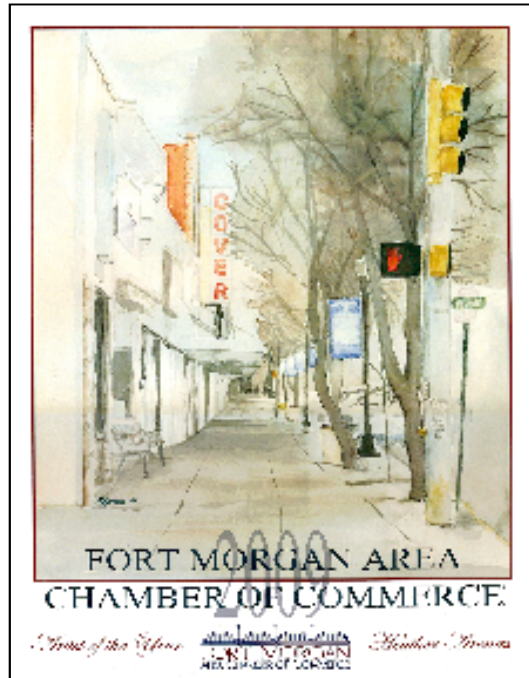
She’s found that the masters didn’t have the luxury of modern-day materials. “They painted on anything – and with anything they could get their hands on. I love that.”

“You can truly be a starving artist and produce fabulous pieces without dropping a fortune on supplies,” Arenas added.

As Arenas journeys through her art career, she has developed a clear style. “I think people who know me could pick my artwork out in a crowd.”

Acknowledging that her style has changed over the years, especially as she’s branched out with the media used, Arenas blends media together much more now than when she was younger.

Ultimately, her artwork has been her constant. “It helps me to feel grounded.”



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 3** Inaugural exhibit at the MCAAC permanent gallery, in conjunction with the grand opening of The School for the Performing Arts and the 100th birthday of the Lincoln School, 914 State St., 4:00 p.m.
- Sept. 13** Morgan County Tenors concert and art show at Fort Morgan Middle School, 3:00 p.m., tickets \$10.
- Sept. 14** MCAAC meeting, School for the Performing Arts, 914 State St., 7:00 p.m.
- Sept. 18-20** Car show, downtown Ft. Morgan
- Sept. 26** Oktoberfest in Brush
- Dec – TBA** “A Christmas Card for the Community” presented by The School for the Performing Arts.

MCAAC VISUAL ARTS DIVISION

ART OPPORTUNITIES

- Sept. 13** Artists can display their work during the Morgan County Tenors concert at the Fort Morgan Middle School. Free for MCAAC members, \$10 for non-members. Concert at 3:00 p.m. – bring artwork an hour early to hang.
- Oct. 3** Watercolor workshop with Bonnie Lieder, 9-noon downstairs meeting room at the School for the Performing Arts, 914 State St. \$30 for MCAAC members, \$40 for non-members. Watch for supply list to be posted soon.
- Oct. 3** First Annual Fall Festival Art & Craft Fair at the Presbyterian Church, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Accepting handmade crafts, arts and photography only. 10x10 booth space \$35. For more information call 867-1012 or 867-2914.
- Nov. 14** Call for art for the next exhibit at MCAAC’s permanent gallery at The School for the Performing Arts. Plan now for your Christmas-themed artwork! Information to follow.
- TBA** Fort Morgan Chamber of Commerce will soon be announcing their Art of the Year contest for 2010. Start thinking now about artwork that depicts Fort Morgan.

For additional information:

Ann Lungerich — 970-867-2363

email mcartsCouncil@gmail.com

mcartsCouncil.blogspot.com