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Art Scene

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wide for its unique hand-painted designs. Artist reception is 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, **June 2**.

The center will host a Fine Arts Show as part of a collaboration with St. Ann's Catholic Church inaugural Hispano Arts Market & Fiesta Saturday and Sunday, **June 24-25**, with vendors, music, food, dance and art, as well as presentations and demonstrations from various artists promoting both traditional and contemporary Hispanic Arts.

Lincoln County Art Loop — Twenty-one Lincoln County artists will host open houses at 19 studios 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday, **July 7-9**, during the 22nd annual self-guided tour on a scenic route from Carrizozo to the lower Hondo Valley. Look for the Art Loop signs identifying each location; maps available at ArtLoopStudioTour.org. Information: 1-855-522-5667.

MRAC Gallery — The Mimbres Region Arts Council Gallery is in Wells Fargo Bank Building,

1201 Pope (at 12th) in Silver City. Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Information: (575) 538-2505 or mimbresarts.org.

Showing in June is a solo watercolor show by Silver City artist Debbie Guerra.

Pinos Altos Church Gallery - The historic gallery in Hearst Church gallery on Golden Ave. in Pinos Altos, N.M., operated by the Grant County Art Guild, is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holidays. Information: (575) 538-8216 or gcag.org.

Rio Bravo Fine Art — 110 Broadway in Truth or Consequences, N.M. Open noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, or by appointment. Information: (575) 894-0572 or riobravofineartgallery.com.

Tree Spirit Gallery — 206 N. Bullard, Silver City. Featured artists: Jeremiah Cogan, Deb Harclerode, Carolyn Cogan, Bonita Barlow and Malika Crozier, plus Hopi crafts. Information: (575) 956-6666 or cogan-cogan.com.

Gallery Talk

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ing that period. Cobb explained that both artists experienced this period as youths. Cisneros was a teenager fleeing his home in Durango. Lea, whose father was the El Paso Mayor during this period, recalls watching at age 7 battles across the border in Juarez through a telescope on the family porch.

On the high school level, students gain a fuller understanding of events in World War II using the paintings Lea created during the period he was a war correspondent for Time Magazine.

As membership coordinator, UTEP student Paola Martinez is in charge of administrative work as it pertains to keeping track of new and longtime members. The longest standing member of Pugh's team is Arturo Flores. Although his title reads "finance manager," Pugh said, "in reality, his main job description is being all things to all people."

Tom Lea Month is still five months away, and Pugh emphasized that she is one who works best when she has a plan in place. "The new Tom Lea Trail is going to be one of our main projects. It is already out of the State Senate and is sure to be approved very soon by the House. Although many sites on the trail are located in a tight circle which includes El Paso, Juarez and Las Cruces, once it leaves El Paso it takes on the shape of a heart taking in Odessa, Seymour, Dallas, Waco, College Station and Fredericksburg, with side roads to Galveston, Kingsville and Hebbronville at the tip of Texas.

In addition to focusing on the Tom Lea Trail, a variety of other events will be scheduled at various locations throughout the month. The El Paso Museum of Art will feature Lea's watercolors in the DeWitter Gallery, and additional paintings that have been in storage will be on display in the main Tom Lea Gallery. Programs will also be presented in Las Cruces and in Santa Fe. The month closes out with "Texan by Nature," which covers the nature and geology of the region including a tour of the "Dinosaur Tracks."

Museum of Archaeology

If you are fascinated by the archaeology and anthropology of the Borderland, you will be especially interested in an exhibition entitled "Paquime and the Casas Grandes Culture," which opened May 20 at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology and runs through October 21.

The peoples of the Casas Grande Culture flourished in the American Southwest from roughly 700 to 1450 AD. The region's largest city and cultural center is Paquime, or Casas Grandes as it is known today. Located on Mesoamerica's northern frontier, this city of about 1,000 inhabitants became an important center of trade between the inhabitants of Central and South American and the natives of the region in what is now northern New Mexico. Large quantities of turquoise, copper goods, colorful shells and exotic birds flowed north and south along this heavily traveled trade route.

The accomplished potters of the Casas Grandes culture become known for their intricate geometric designs. Visitors can view the museum's extensive collection of Mesoamerican pottery, one of the largest in the Southwest. A number of pieces from the Naylor collection, donated a few years ago, will be on view for the first time.

Pottery from Paquime inspired the technique and designs of acclaimed potter Juan Casada, and the Mata Ortiz potters from the Casas Grandes area.

Complementing this exhibit, a smaller photographic exhibition in the museum's auditorium shows three petroglyph sites in the Casas Grandes region.

Guest speakers will illuminate the importance of Paquime:

June 10: Thinking Globally, Acting Locally: Paquime in the International Four Corners. Presenter Paul Minnis is a professor emeritus at the University of Oklahoma.

July 11: The Feathered Serpent Spreads its Wings: Bundling Knowledge and Religion in the New World. Presenter Todd and Christine VanPool are associate professors of archaeology at the University of Missouri - Columbia.

Myrna Zanetell is a freelance writer specializing in the visual arts.