



IN THE GALLERIES

Parks Gallery in Taos gets set to celebrate its 15th anniversary with a group exhibition opening Saturday (Sept. 13), from 4-6 p.m. that includes work by some 30 artists who have been featured over the years. "It'll be like a family reunion," says Douglas Parks who, with his wife Jani Ticker, opened the gallery in 1993.

"Just and I had been in art publishing for some years, which was gratifying work, but a difficult way to make a living," says Parks in a press release, who first moved to Taos in 1973.

"In the summer of '90, Melissa Zink, a good friend and an artist I'd admired since writing a review of her very first exhibition in the late '70s, asked if we'd like to try the gallery business and represent her. That summer, Ben Wagner, who I'd known even longer, asked the same question. It seemed like fate was conspiring to make us in a nice direction. A few days later I saw a 'For Rent' sign on the little two-story building on Guadalupe Plaza owned by Ben Kalom. I called Ben,



"Dawn Kachina," speaks by Douglas Johnson on display at Parks Gallery

he said, 'Get over here right away, people are lined up.' I had to make a decision on the spot, and the rest is history."

The gallery first represented Zink and Wagner, along with Taos photographer Will Wood and Coyote, N.M., painter Douglas Johnson. Susan Coatsworth from Santa Fe soon followed.

Those first artists are still being shown at the gallery. Other artists the gallery has represented include Johnnie Winsome Ross, Marc Baseman, Jack Smith, Christine Taylor Penon and Erin Carrier — the lat-

est of whom the Parks are particularly proud of discovering.

The artists who have shown at Parks Gallery cover a wide aesthetic range, from Ted Lerner's minimalism to Victoria Cohen's madcap imagery; Arthur López's contemporary baños and Marsha Skinner's deeply moving abstractions. "What draws us first is originality," says Parks. "Then it's vision and skill at execution, and finally something intangible, something about the chemistry between artist and dealer. It's a family affair."

Other artists included in the



"Super X Wife," miral Al Bell on display at Parks Gallery

exhibition are Miral Al Bell, Stacy Brown, Nathaniel, Colette Hosmer, Gene, Joel Lage, Armand Keefe, Carol Mother, Lee, Paul Pascoe, Hol John Schrup, Sam Scott Swayne and Emily Troy. The exhibition will run through Oct. 7.

The winners of the "Uncontainable Image" photo contest have been announced and the People's Choice votes are in. Now it's up to three judges to pick the best. *Five Magazine* presents the "Uncontainable Image" photo contest opening celebration on Friday (Sept. 12), from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the KTAO Solar Center.

An impressive array of professional, amateur and student photographs will be judged during the opening. Lenny Foster of the Living Light Gallery, Adam Schallau of Taos Mountain Electronics and Caitlin Legere, art director of *Five Magazine*, are also on hand to award prizes.

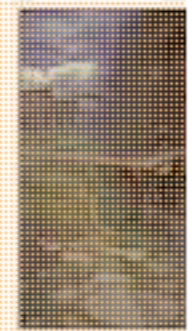
Professional photographers are defined as people whose photography makes up 50 percent or more of their yearly income. The amateur is the person who loves to shoot, "gosh darn it you're great, but you don't take it to the bank," as described in a press release. And students are youngsters currently enrolled in an elementary or secondary school. Prizes will be awarded in the all three categories.

All winners will receive exhibition space at the KTAO Solar Center, feature presentation in *Five Magazine's* image section (1st prize each category) and in a specially dedicated online image gallery (all entries, and a separate page for winning images), according to the press release.

The photographers will be on hand, including professional photographers Tomás Valerio, Venus Masci, Té Zins, Aren Rane and many more. There will also be music, food and refreshments.

KTAO Solar Center

9 NM 150 (Taos Ski Valley Road)
(575) 758-5826
www.readfive.com



"Looking in Looking Out," photographer Richard Hasbrouck

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