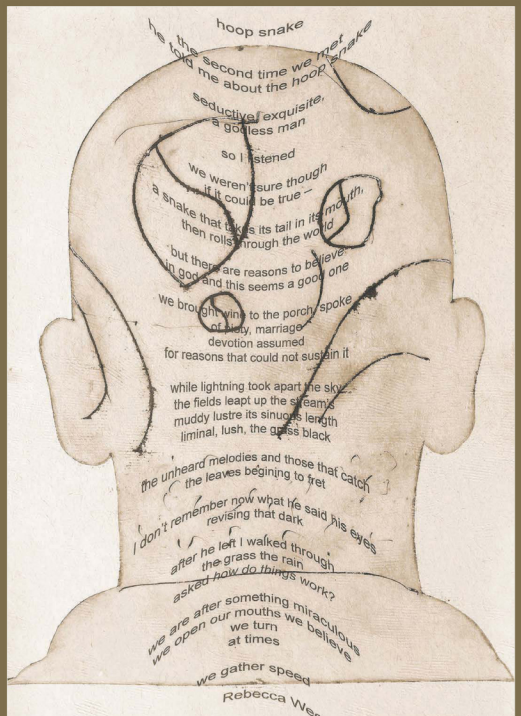
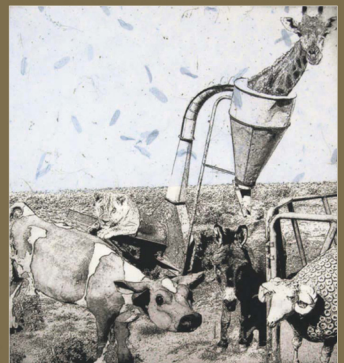


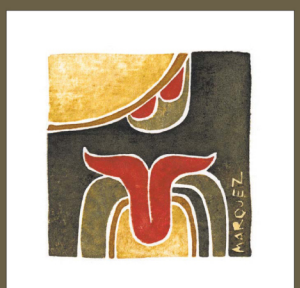
Courtesy image

'Iowa Poet Series IV, Hoop Snake' by Rebecca Wee



Courtesy image

'Down on the Mariposa II' solar etching by Jennifer Lindsley



Courtesy image

'Sprout' by Christa Márquez

Spreading ink

One-day exhibition celebrates the wonder of printmaking in Taos

By Judith Rane

A host of Taos printmakers, representing an abundant array of styles — from monotypes and woodcuts to lithographs and etchings — will present a one-day extravaganza in the Stables Art Gallery of the Taos Center for the Arts on Friday (Nov. 14) from 4 to 7 p.m.

The print artists, exhibiting four works specifically created for the event, will be in attendance to inform and talk about their work along with various printmaking processes.

"Pressing On," an informal group of Taos printmakers, and the Taos Center for the Arts are the co-sponsors of this broad expanse of printmaking.

In Asian countries, printmaking originated as a means to create patterns for cloth and by the 5th century was used

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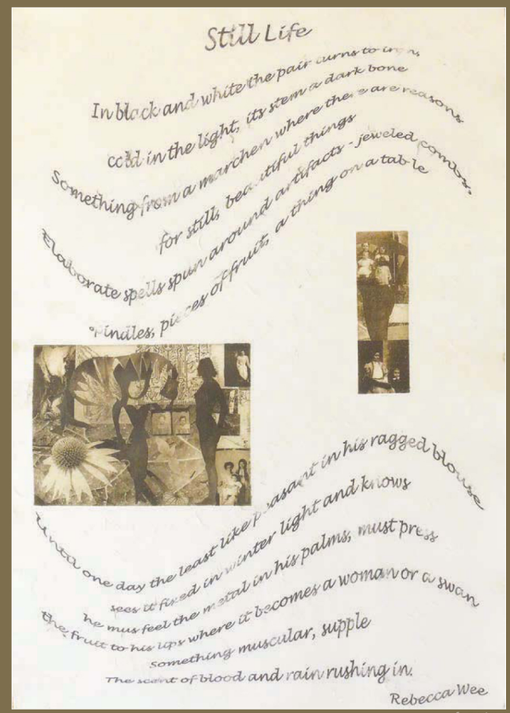
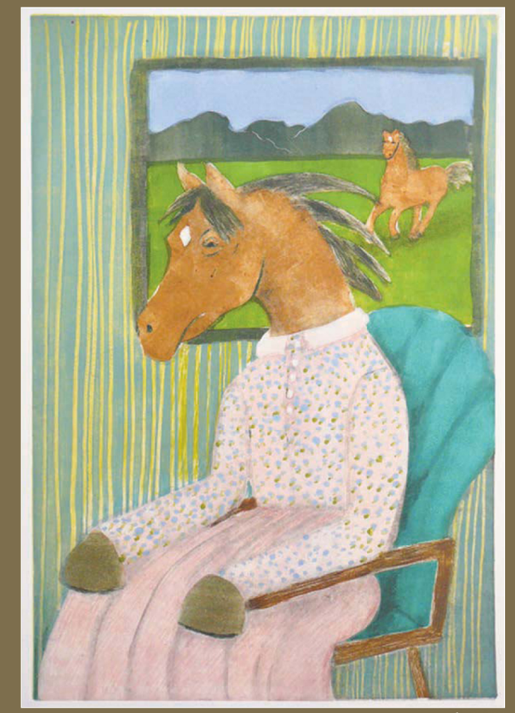


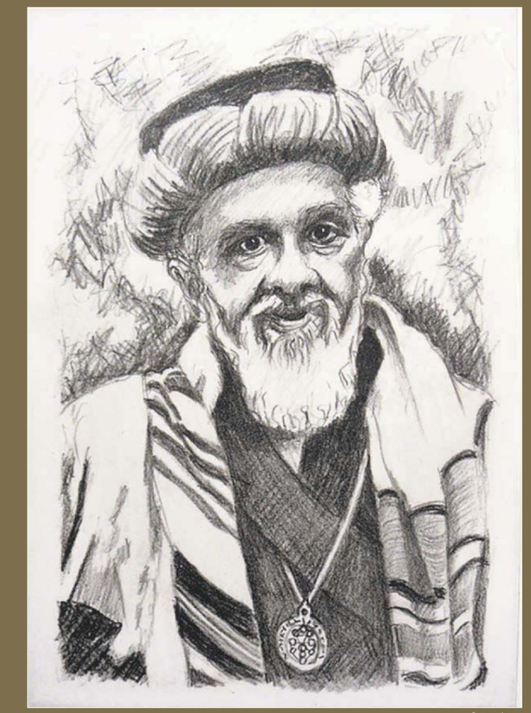
Courtesy image

'Iowa Poet Series II, Still Life' by Rebecca Wee



Courtesy image

'You were wild once, don't let them tame you,' monotype by Fatima Rigsby



Courtesy image

'Reb Zalman,' solar etching by Fatima Rigsby

SPREADING INK *continues from Page 29*

to print text and images on paper. Ultimately, artists soon were drawn to the medium's creative possibilities, resulting in vivid works that could be reproduced over and over, or at least as long as the original woodblocks lasted. By the 1400s, engravers in Germany were making prints by scoring metal plates which could then be spread with ink.

Today, there are a multitude of ways prints can be made, from physical processes to purely digital. Giclee prints for example are reproductions of previously created art, whereas handmade prints are unique and original works of art, freshly conceived and created on the spot, or "hot off the press." The immediacy of the process, which lends itself to invention, calls for a great deal of labor and thought, concentration and craftsmanship.

A number of the printmakers, when asked what appealed to them about printmaking said, in effect: The tactile use of the materials employed and, more often than not, the unexpected results of the finished image. "Surprise" and "magic" being the key words.

Woodcut printer Christa Márquez said, "I love the moment of peeling the print back from the block to see what is revealed," adding, "I get much joy from working with my hands … mixing luminescent water colors … tearing down the soft cotton paper. It is always a surprise … and usually better than I could have imagined."

Barbara Zaring finds a lot of crossover between printmaking and painting. "What I love about printmaking is the immediacy and chance-taking. I seldom know what will happen and am delighted by the surprise."

Suzanne Wiggin loves the "bit of magic" that can happen when using inks instead of paint, paper instead of canvas. "Pigments, run through a printing press, combine in ways true to their nature. It is not until you pull the print that they reveal themselves. There lies the magic and the fun."

Jennifer Lindsley, on the other hand, after having spent many years in a photography darkroom, found she missed "the pleasure of seeing an image appear in the developer," adding, "the joy of printmaking is seeing the image come to life as I had envisioned it."

Dan Cassidy finds printmaking to be "an intellectual approach to image making … I need to create a mirror image of how I want the art to look and blending colors through layering on the press produces hues that are subtler than I can mix myself. Even though I am planning and creating the image, the interaction of the press adds an element of serendipity."

For "Hot Off the Press," printmakers will exhibit their work, unframed, in a standardized format and size. Collectors and art lovers may want to note that these 26 printmakers will be offering their work for sale — all under $300 — with some work being finished and signed during the event itself.

"The art of printmaking is a rich and varied medium that lends itself to invention," a press release states. "During 'Hot off the Press,' expect monotypes, etch-

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Courtesy image

'Gap,' monotype by Suzanne Wiggin

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ings, collographs, solar etchings, direct gravures, polyester lithographs, chine colle, black and white, multiple drop color aquatints, and woodblock prints.

"In addition to the exhibition and sale of prints, the event will also feature printmaking demonstrations and a media presentation. Printmakers will be present and happy to discuss their mediums and techniques."

Other printmaking artists represented are: Lisa Burge, Angie Coleman, Gary Cook, Sabine Core, Sydney Craig, Jan Dorris, Randall Lagro, Jennifer Lynch, Harley Manhart, Robert Parker, Amy Rankin, Fatima Rigsby, Anais Rumfelt, Abby Salsbury, Robbie Steinbach, Teresa Swayne, Christopher Taylor, Cydney Taylor, Nat Wilson, Joyce Wimer, and Bonnie Zirkel.

The Stables Art Gallery is located at 133 Paseo del Pueblo Norte. For more information, call (575) 758-2052 or visit *tcataos.org*.

F Y I

Opening reception

- **When:** Friday (Nov. 14), 4-7 p.m.
- **Where:** Stables Gallery, 133 Paseo del Pueblo Norte
- **Admission:** Free
- **Information:** (575) 758-2052