Paint for Peaks

TSV 'art board' exhibit and auction helps raise awareness about breast cancer

By Virginia L. Clark

"Bonzai Board," mixed media

'I have a personal grudge against cancer. Most in our society use the moniker of mother-in-law as a slight … mine was one of the finest people on God's green earth. She didn't pass because of breast cancer, but it was cancer just the same. My piece is an amalgamation of all that is the Pacific rim (a bit of surf and slope) along with a Bonzai attitude.'

Greg Moon

The Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure has a whole different twist in this arts and snow-sports place called Taos — the race is by artists to create an evocative and original work of art with a snowboard as their canvas. Banking on the artist's fame and popularity, the Taos Ski Valley resort is aiming to double the auction proceeds over last year's event.

The "Paint for Peaks" art exhibit and auction for snowboards decorated by local and world-renowned artists is planned to open with a reception Sunday (March 20) at 4 p.m. in the Martini Tree Bar at the Taos Ski Valley Resort Center. Right after the auction, DJ Oliver Knight will provide dance beats starting around 6 p.m.

This is the second year for the event, which is free of charge to attend. A cash bar will be available.

"Last year 'Paint for Peaks' raised $11,000 for local breast cancer research affiliates," said TSV Special Events Coordinator Hano Blake in a phone commentary last week. "We're shooting for $20,000 this year."

All proceeds, "100 percent," Blake said, will benefit breast cancer research via the Susan G. Komen for the Cure foundation, "but this year we're doing it through the Anita Salas Memorial Fund. That means the funds stay in New Mexico (see information box)."

This year's event organizer is Jan Mellor of The Taos Gallery.

"My involvement with this great fundraiser is that while working on another art related project," Mellor said in an e-mail last week, "I heard about the success of

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Courtesy illustration

"Woman of Valor," oil/snowboard.

'In memory of my mother Nancy who died at age 38 from breast cancer in 1960.'

Jonathan Sobol

'This painting, for Snowboard, was inspired by the memory of spiritual experience I had when I saw the most beautiful full moon over the snow cap mountain. My hope is for anyone who acquired this painting to bring them a peace, tranquil feeling whenever they look at this "Moon over the mountain."'

Teruko Wilde

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ner, Janet Gray.

TSV Marketing Director Adriana Blake said in a prepared statement that the ski resort is exited to bring the auction back again this year.

"This event is a terrific way to join our skiing and riding passions with an important cause. We hope all our visitors will stop by the exhibit or elect to donate directly on Sunday the 20th."

Sunday (March 20) has been designated Breast Cancer Awareness Day at Taos Ski Valley and skiers/riders have the option of adding $1 to their lift ticket price, to go directly to breast/cervical cancer research and support funds.

A preview of some of the artists' snowboard designs is available at *www.paintforpeaks.com.*

Snowboards have been donated by Never Summer Industries, and longboards donated by Dykema Manufacturing and Draven Shoes.

FYI

Cancer research benefit

- **When:** Saturday (March 20), 4 p.m.
- **Where:** Martini Tree Bar, Taos Ski Valley Resort
- **Admission:** Free
- **Information:** (575) 776-2291 ext. 1285

Anita Salas Memorial Fund

A division of the New Mexico Department of Health, according to their website (*www.concernm.org/bcc/anita-salas*), "The Anita Salas Memorial Fund provides financial assistance for breast and cervical cancer services incurred by New Mexican women screened by the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program or part of special grants or projects approved by the Board."

Snowboard design by Steven Gootgeld

Courtesy illustration

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last year's 'Paint For Peaks' event and that they were not sure what direction it would go in this year. I stepped in and volunteered to bring whatever I could to help it run smoothly — which has been mainly working with the artists and some PR. I will also be helping to set up the art at the event on the 20th. So essentially 'the taos gallery' is honored to be involved with such an important cause. It has been heartwarming to have so many of our talented artists agree to participate and to hear their reasons why."

The exhibit will feature original works on snowboards by such artists as Teruko Wilde, Jonathan Sobol, Steve Gootgeld, Ira Lujan, Thom Wheeler, Dan Vigil, Doug Scott, Bill Hudson, Stephen Kilborn, Greg Moon, Anne-Sophie Lenoir and Jason Smith, to name a few.

Artist and local business owner Gary Fey, completed a board that will be on view at the show. Fey died Thursday (March 10). In his description for "Snow Board" (paint, dye, hot wax, ribbon), Fey wrote "Survivors know that until we face death we don't learn to truly live." Fey dedicated his board to breast cancer survivors and sisters Deb Gragr.

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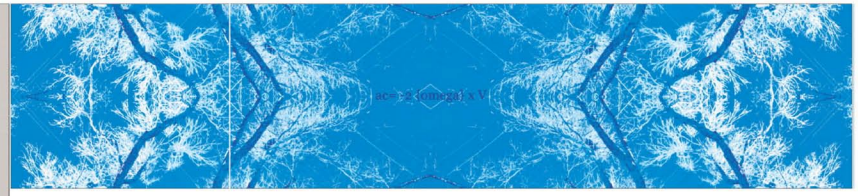
'Snow board':
paint, dye, hot wax, ribbon

'Survivors know that until we face death we don't learn to truly live. Breast cancer survivors and sisters Deb Gragner, Janet Gray.'

Gary Fey



'The Seven Chakras'

(Anecdote about the original image used to create the mandala: I shot it the night of the Geminid Meteor Shower, and the lines you see are the stars. I left my shutter open for about one hour. With the rotation of the earth, the stars appear to move across the sky — which brought me to the Coriolis Effect … This mandala is art therapy, it is an healing image created to help and inspire the person to connect with her inner self and find her personal recovery path. As a woman artist, I wish to share this way of healing that I have found in my mandalas. So many women will be faced with breast cancer in their lifetime … Through meditation, the human body can fight any kind of disease.'

Sophie Lenoir

Courtesy illustration

Snowboard illustration by Jennifer Lynch

'Here is my statement as to why I painted this board: 'All women … are my sister.'

Doug Scott

'This painting, for Snowboard, was inspired by the memory of spiritual experience I had when I saw the most beautiful full moon over the snow cap mountain. My hope is for anyone who acquired this painting to bring them a peace, tranquil feeling whenever they look at this 'Moon over the mountain.'

Teruko Wilde

'Why am I participating in this event? Easy … I want to support a worthy cause. But beyond that, it's the challenge of the snowboard format. It's a real stretch to compose a picture that makes sense on a ground that doesn't … A snowboard? You've got to be kidding! … But of course the Chinese and Japanese have known this for centuries."

Bill Hudson

My snowboard is titled 'Big Pink' and is acrylic. My wife Laverne had breast cancer 14 years ago.

Stephen Kilborn