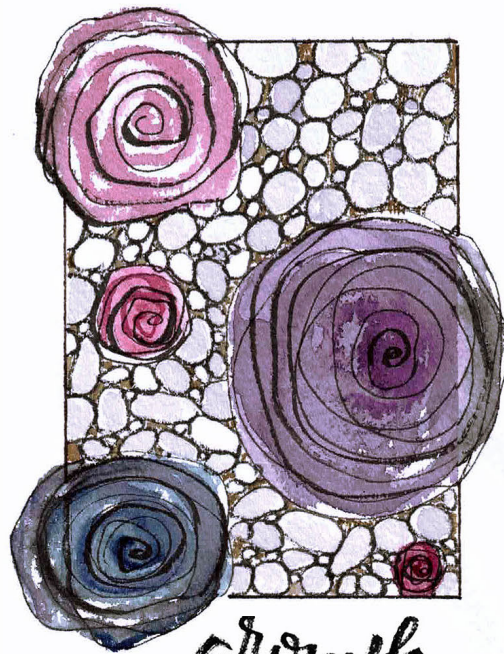


*Escribiente*

**NEWSLETTER**  
**SPRING 2021**



*growth  
can happen  
anywhere*

*Escribiente is Albuquerque's Calligraphic Society  
open to anyone interested in the fine art of beautiful lettering*

## OUR PREZ SAYS –



*Escribiente*

PO Box 30166, Albuquerque, NM 87190

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019–2020

PRESIDENT: Beth House - beth.house107 at gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT: Elizabeth McKee - alphabeth55 at gmail.com

TREASURER: Evelyn Costello - evelyncostello at msn.com

SECRETARY: Lynda Lawrence - lynda33 at hotmail.com

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

E-NEWS: Bill Kemp - brotherbill55 at hotmail.com

FUNDRAISING: as needed (per event)

HOSPITALITY: Alma Sanderson - almasanderson.com

LIBRARY: Trish Meyer - trish at escribiente.org

MEMBERSHIP: Jan Florence & Ginger Larkin - jsfcallig at yahoo.com and ging1330 at aol.com

NEWSLETTER: Lynda Lawrence - lynda33 at hotmail.com

PROGRAMS: Elizabeth McKee - alphabeth55 at gmail.com

PUBLICITY: OPEN

EXHIBITIONS: Trish Meyer - trish at escribiente.org

STATE FAIR: OPEN

WORKSHOPS: Janice Gabel - janice.gabel at gmail.com

REFRESHMENTS: Sharon Shannon - sshannon2 at swcp.com

I look forward to visiting with everyone in person again. As vaccines reach more people, we'll be able to meet. Zoom meetings have allowed us to interact with out-of-city and out-of-state members, and have allowed us to have recorded programs taught by artists living far away. **Heather Martinez** has helped us manage Zoom meetings. Thank you!

**VP Elizabeth McKee's** leadership in selecting these Zoom programs has been achieved by her attendance at international calligraphy conferences whereby she enjoyed the experience of learning from various instructors.

Treasurer, **Evelyn Costello**, always knows about Escribiente's future financial needs and is prepared to keep us in operation. Her photo contributions to the newsletters are appreciated.


**Janice Gabel's** experience in attending international calligraphy conferences and Ghost Ranch for many years helps her make contacts to select excellent teachers for workshops. The recent Zoom workshops have been appreciated by all.

**Trish Meyer** has led Escribiente into the forefront of exhibits in Albuquerque. When Trish was President, the Library started coming to meetings. It still does.

This Newsletter is evidence of **Lynda Lawrence's** creative knowledge of layout and design. Her family had a newspaper/printing business in South Dakota where she worked as a youth.

**Ginger Larkin** and **Jan Florence** keep up with membership and send welcome packets to new members – an important greeting. Many Thanks to **Bill Kemp** for being the email messenger for Escribiente.

Thanks to **Sharon Shannon** for organizing our holiday card exchange and the slate of officers we will vote for in May.

**Kathy Chilton** gave us a reason to make many Valentines. 

As my term as President ends in June, I'm thankful for our helpful officers and committee chairs who have done their jobs so well! Enjoy the new officers and help out as you can.

Sincerely, Beth House

## ◆ COVER ART BY HEATHER MARTINEZ

◆ This issue of the newsletter features the recent *Art of Healing* show at the New Mexico Cancer Center Gallery with a Cause. Escribiente was well-represented thanks to the gentle nudge by Trish Meyer to entice members to show the world what we do for fun. Thank you Trish for organizing this group show.

◆ We have new BFF's from living rooms/studios far and wide – Greece, California, Texas, Georgia, Ohio, and Washington – thanks to the workshop enrollment in Barbara Close's *Power Pages* workshop. We hunger for the companionship of artists who speak our quirky language and lingo. The power of the friendship and passion we have in common is all about caring and sharing. Escribiente is the channel for that to happen.

◆ In other news – View a feature story in *New Mexico Magazine* showcasing Escribiente member, **Beverly Taylor**. Her efforts to promote the Farmington art scene is featured. She is artist and owner of *Artifacts 302 Gallery*, 302 East Main Street, Farmington NM.

When the New Mexico Cancer Center was initially constructed in 2001, one of the primary design goals was to surround patients and staff with beauty and light. So the center was constructed as a living art gallery as well as a medical facility filled with stunning, high-quality art with new exhibits every three months. Escribiente was again invited to be part of their recent show, *The Art of Healing*, and the artwork exhibited by members is shown over the next seven pages. Traditionally, as a fundraiser to benefit the center, members of Escribiente have made bookmarks at the opening reception of the shows in which we have participated. Unfortunately, that didn't happen this year due to Covid-19 restrictions.



Kathy Chilton



Kathy Chilton



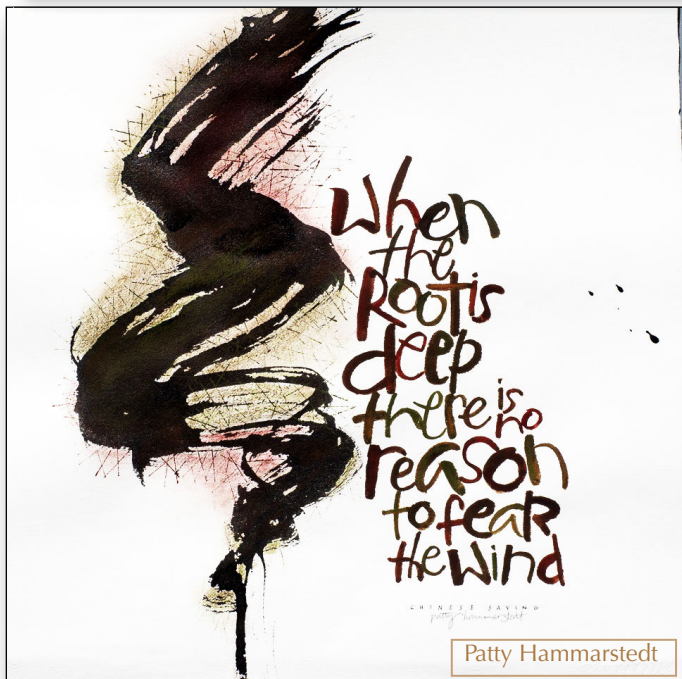
Caryl McHarney



Elizabeth McKee

Patty Hammarstedt

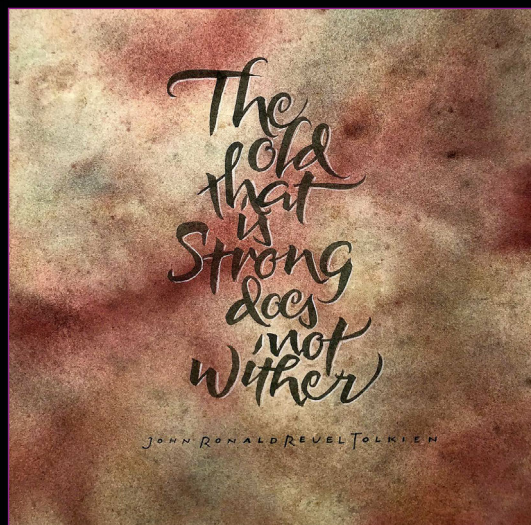
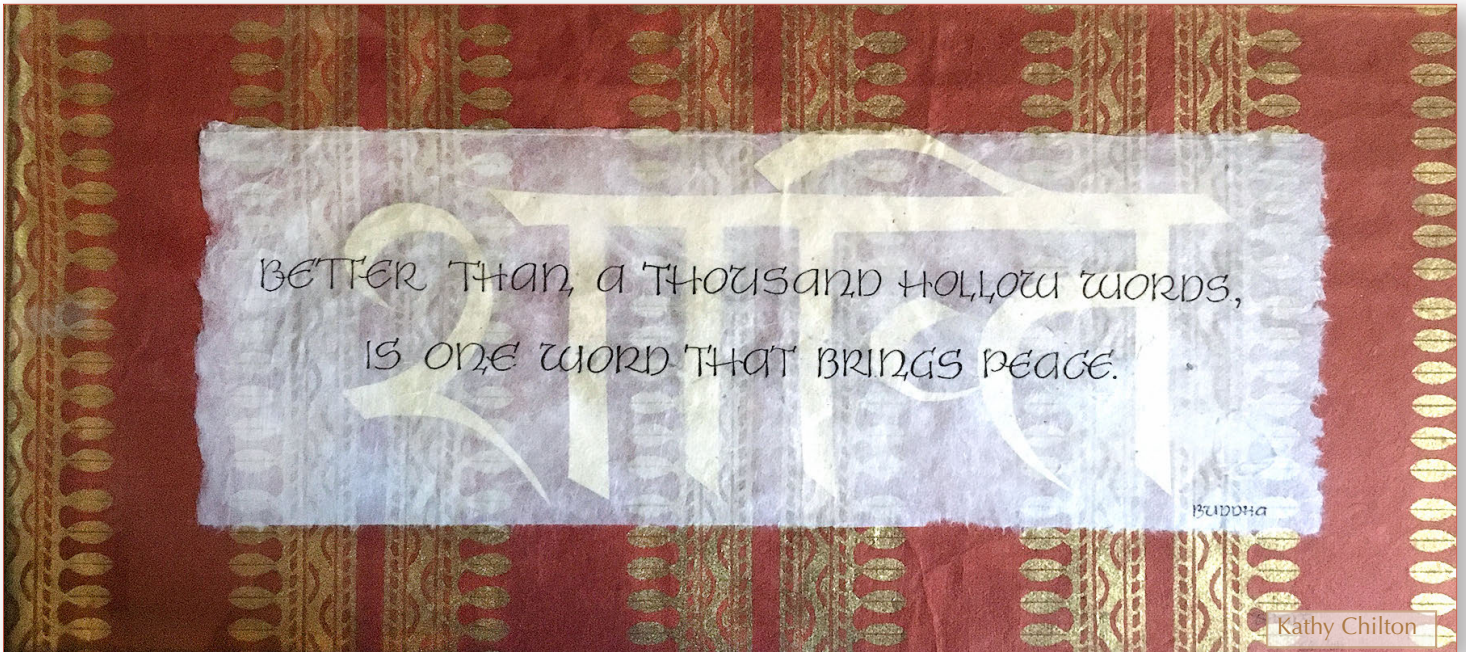
Elizabeth McKee



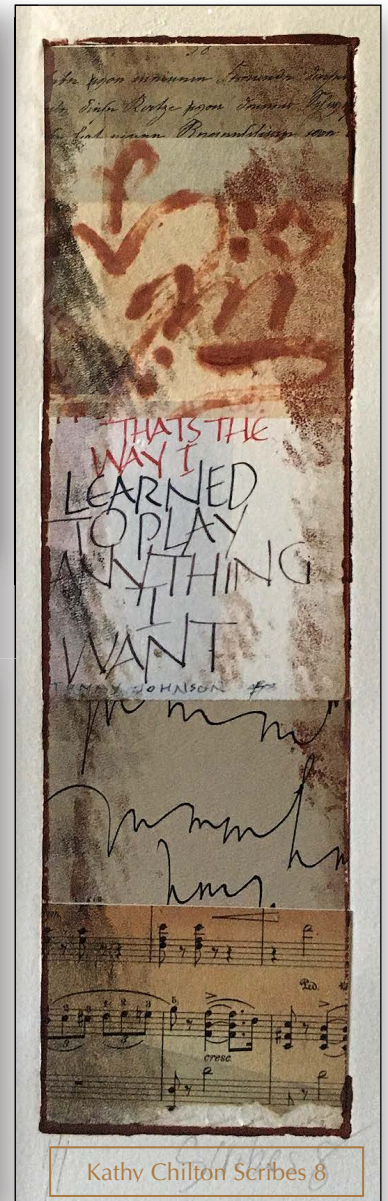
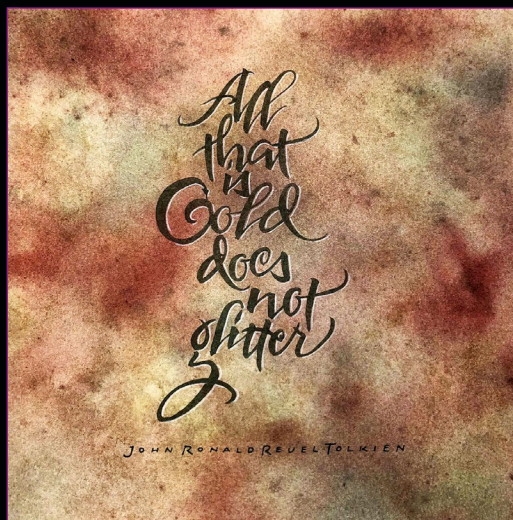
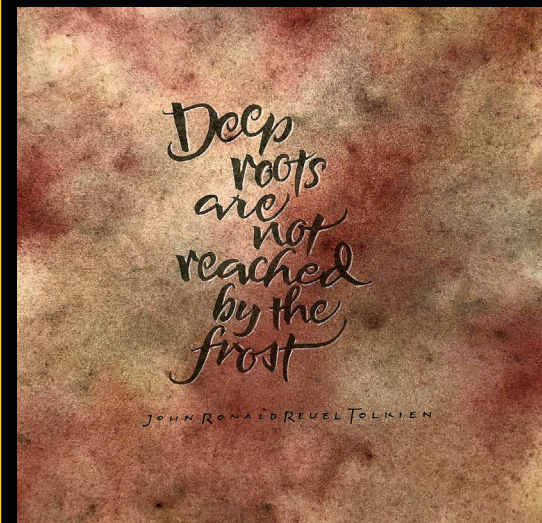
Patty Hammarstedt

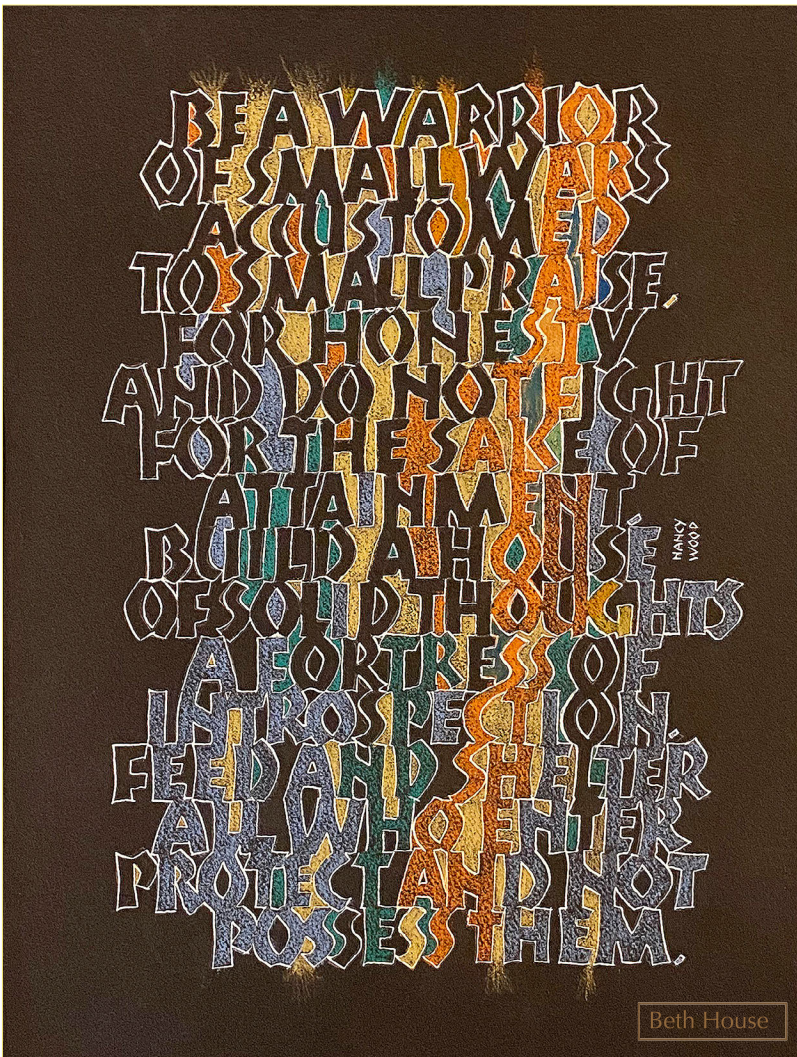


Patty Hammarstedt



These four by Janice Gabel





When you thought that spring forgot to come  
 a meadowlark sang in a tree.  
 A flower popped out of the ground. You felt like dancing  
 Like singing to the clouds.  
 Now is the time to learn how to breathe all over again.  
 Pretend you are a newborn baby.  
 Get the staleness of winter out of your heart  
 and mind and body.  
 It's time to be reborn as a pocket gopher:

Passing through a time of solitude and introspection  
 makes you realize how precious simple things are.  
 Look around.

If the sky seems too low, push it up  
 if the earth seems too still, put your face in the mud  
 and sing it a growing song.  
 Put wildflowers in your ears. Howl at the next full moon.  
 Talk to coyotes, to ravens, to the little ant digging  
 itself out of the ground.

What's the worst thing that can happen?

Ask yourself: Is there enough of you to go around?  
 Do people expect too much?  
 Is your work something you want to do?  
 Or do you have to do?  
 Do you yearn for a new place?  
 A new person with whom to share your life?

Regeneration allows you to grow wings.  
 Sprout roots. Two more legs. Or fins.  
 Regeneration means that you can start  
 growing all over again.  
 this time from the inside out  
 There is time for everything,  
 even that which you thought too late to happen.  
 Nancy Wood

Beth House

Beth House

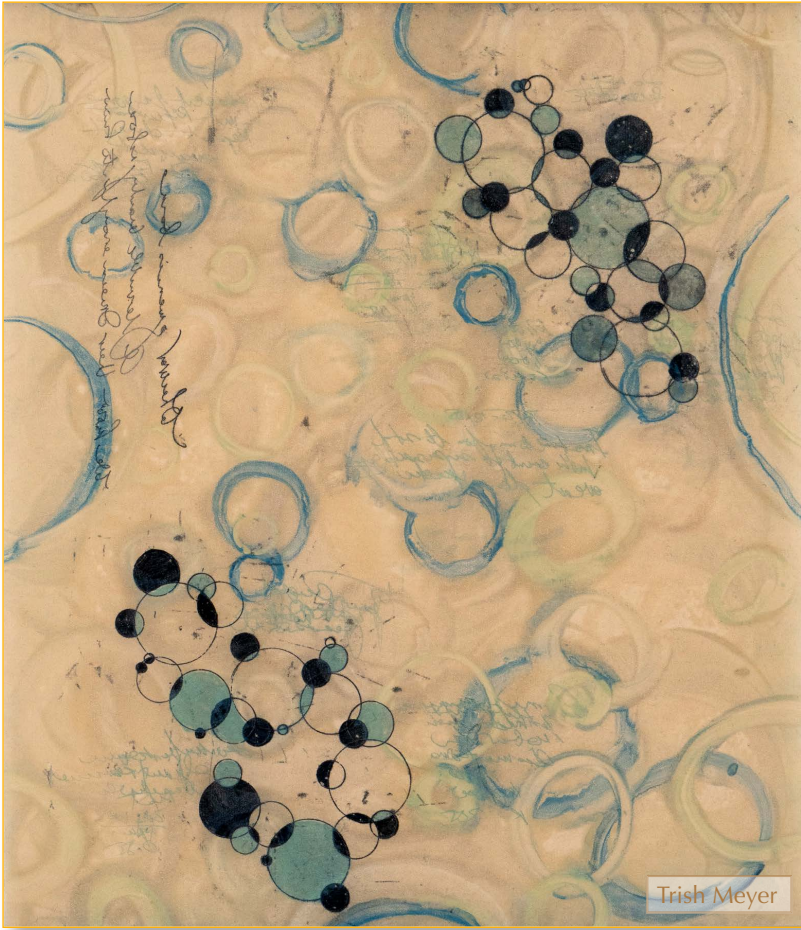


Trish Meyer

VIRTUE  
 IS NOT ALWAYS  
 AVAILABLE

JOHN  
 ADAMS

Beth House



Trish Meyer

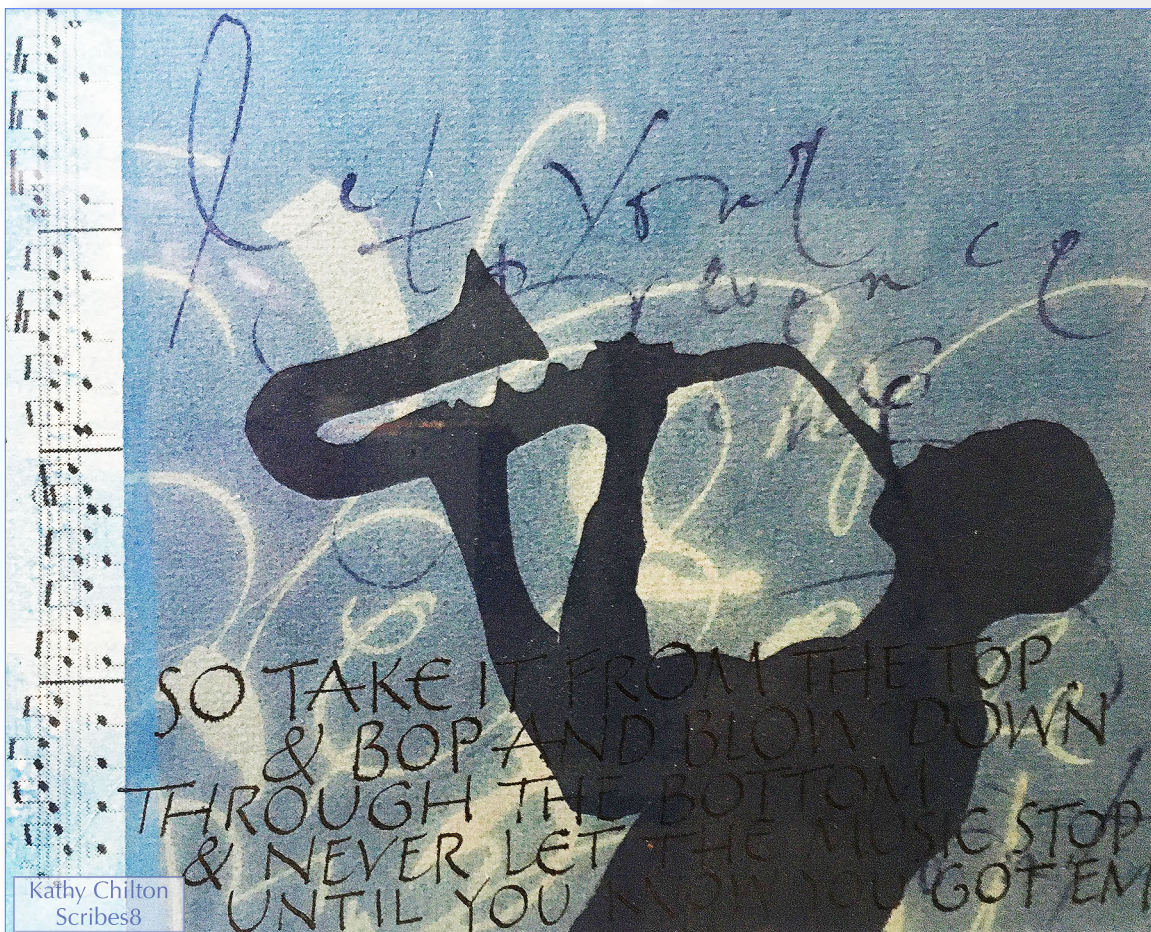


Caryl McHarney



Caryl McHarney







Vicki Bolen



Vicki Bolen

Why who makes much of a miracle?  
 As for me, I know of nothing else but miracles,  
 Whether I walk the streets of Albuquerque,  
 Or dart my sight over the roofs of houses  
 toward the sky,  
 Or wade with naked feet along the beach  
 just in the edge of the water,  
 Or stand under trees in the woods,  
 Or sit at table at dinner with the rest,  
 Or look at strangers opposite me  
 riding in the car,  
 Or watch honey-bees busy around the  
 hive of a summer forenoon,  
 Or animals feeding in the fields,  
 Or birds, or the wonderfulness of insects  
 in the air,  
 Or the wonderfulness of the sundown,  
 or of stars shining so quiet and bright,  
 Or the exquisite delicate thin curve  
 of the new moon in Spring;  
 These with the rest, one and all,  
 are to me miracles,  
 The whole referring, yet each  
 distinct and in its place.

To me every hour dark  
 of the light and dark  
 is a miracle,

Every cubic inch of space is a miracle  
 Every square yard of the surface of the earth  
 is spread with the same,  
 Every foot of the interior swarms with the same.

To me the sea is a continual miracle,  
 The fishes that swim - the rocks - the motion  
 of the waves - the ships with men in them,  
 What stranger miracles are there?

Miracles, by Walt Whitman, mostly.

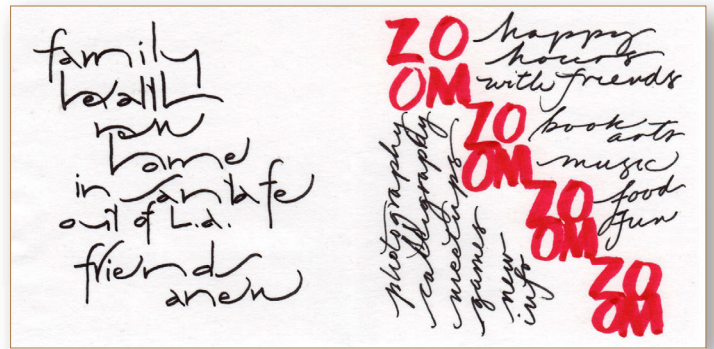
Elizabeth McKee

The entire Art of Healing show at the New Mexico Cancer Center Gallery with a Cause show will be online for at least twelve months. View online at [GalleryWithACause.org](http://GalleryWithACause.org).

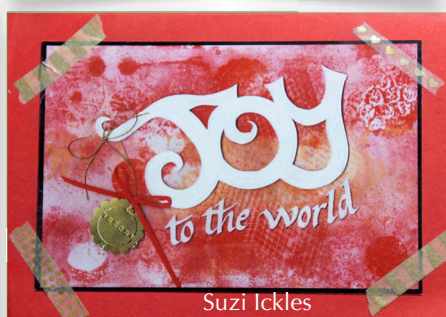
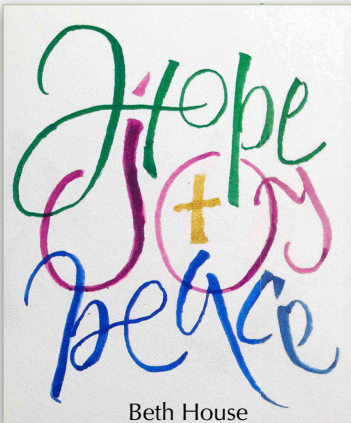
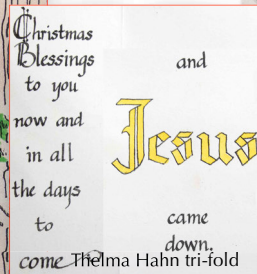
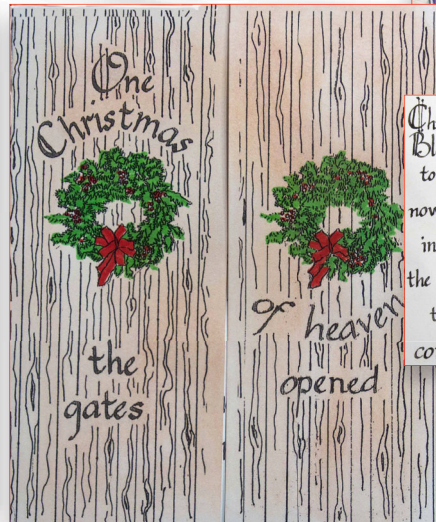
The NM Cancer Center Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds to alleviate non-medical needs for cancer patients. 40% of each art sale goes to the foundation and is tax-deductible.



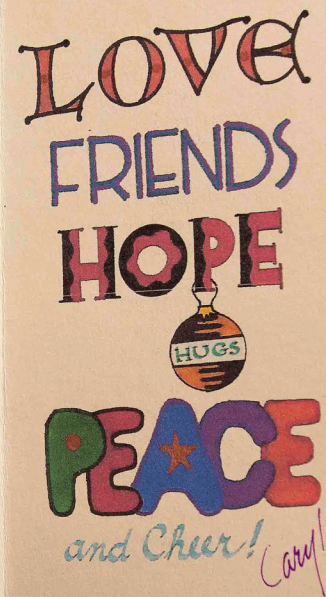
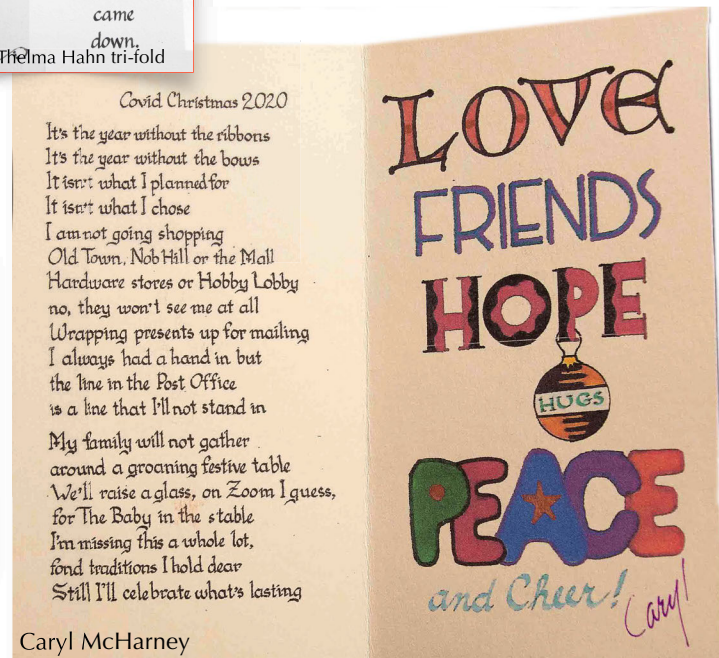
These two images from Neala Coan are pages which were printed back-to-back and folded in half to become part of a LIBROS Collaborative Book. The master spread size is 6" by 3"; when folded for the signature, the page is 3" by 3".



The theme of the collaborative was to find the positives that came out of 2020. In the image on the left, Neala used a font over the music background. In the image above is her own expressive hand lettering.



Thank you Sharon Shannon for leading our Holiday Card Exchange for 2020.

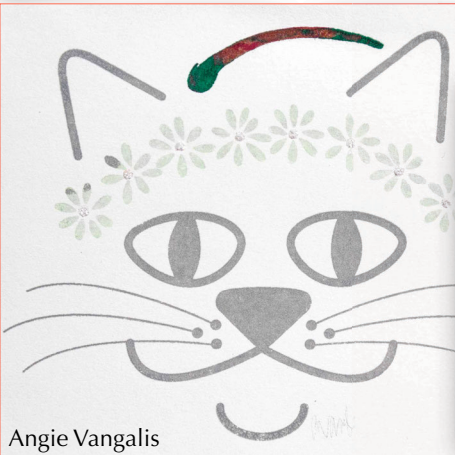




*Peace*  
 Coleen Konetzni  
 Coleen Konetzni



*Peace on Earth*  
 Ginger



*Sharon,* December 2020 Holiday Card Exchange  
*Wishing you a Meowy Christmas!*  
 It's wonderful to be a part of such a lovely group of scribes!  
 This card is an original serigraph print and was inspired by "Doughboy", a kitty I had for 21 years who would often "make biscuits" just before his meal time.  
 Warmest,  
 Angie Vangalis

*Peace and Love in the New Year.*  
 Lisa Rodriguez



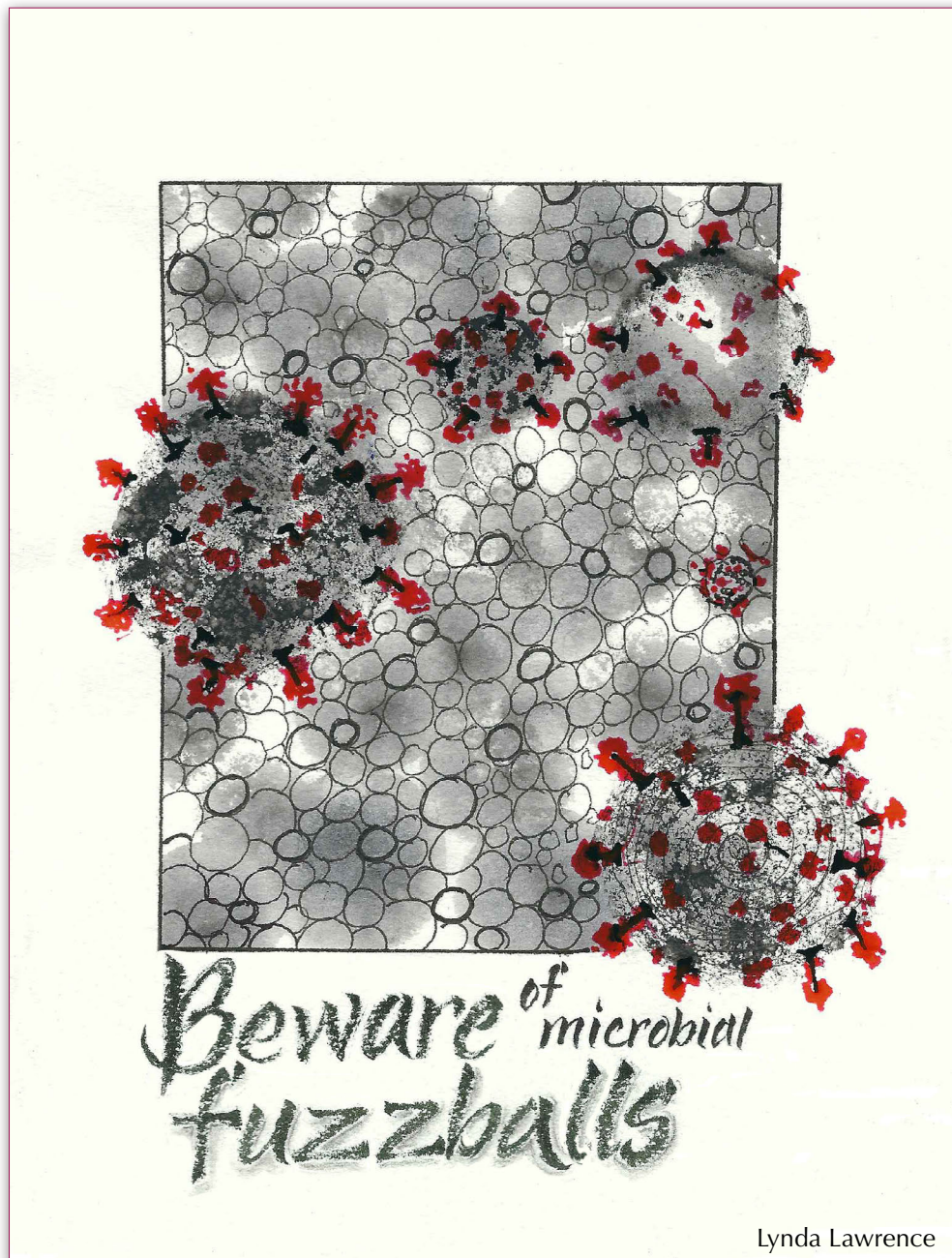
*How lovely are your branches!*  
*Christmas Tree*  
 O Christmas Tree...  
 Julie Gray

Dear Escribiente members near and far! You are the BEST! I put out the word that Meals on Wheels would again appreciate having handmade valentines for each of their food recipients, especially during COVID times. You responded with a flourish and a heart to make exquisite valentines that demonstrate creativity and thoughtfulness. I soon learned that not only is the quality of your work enormous, so is the need of people to be remembered by your kind work. My husband, Lance, on his bicycle, delivered the many hundreds needed for Meals on Wheels. They loved them. More valentines kept streaming in, so I took the liberty to find more people who needed to be remembered. Adelante heard of this and requested valentines. Then the Senior Care Center nursing home in the South Valley, then La Vida Llena nursing section, then St. Vincent de Paul families that need help to pay utility bills, then the UNM flight nurses and Covid patient workers, then the United Way section serving homeless women and children. I could not keep count but there were well over 1,000 beautiful cards delivered. Heartfelt thanks! Love, Kathy Chilton





In answering the call, Trish Meyer didn't count on Michaels or Hobby Lobby to mass produce the red hearts she needed for making valentines. Using various heart shapes as templates, a few shades of magenta and red watercolors, as well as decorative papers and metallic gel pens, she pulled together everything she needed to answer Kathy's request for valentines.



It was all about contrast in crafting powerful compositions. Fear of the blank paper didn't stop us! "Trust your impulses," she said. "Be happy with the process," she said. Explore and push yourself outside your comfort zone," she said. Escribiente members came "together" virtually to learn from Barbara Close in her *Power Pages* workshop.

Workshop review  
by Lynda Lawrence



Trish Meyer



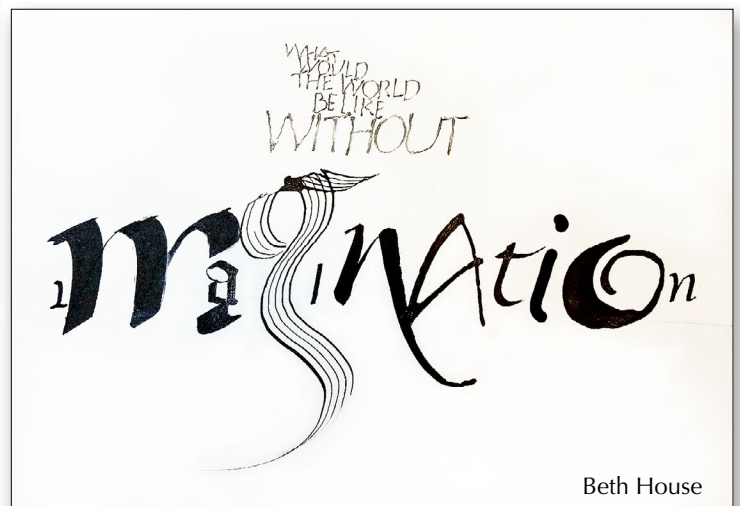
Trish Meyer

**RIGHT:** This was a test of how well we can follow directions! Barb gave us very specific instructions starting with the letter N in the middle of the page. Without knowing the end result, we lettered on as instructed, one letter at a time, with each letter being a different style with a different tool. The word "imagination" was done blindly, as we did not know that in the end we would be squeezing eleven letters on one line.

In a nutshell: Bringing emphasis to design elements can be achieved by employing the *Power of Thirds*. This is "rule of thumb" or guideline which applies to the process of composing images on the page. Contrast of large, medium and small areas – or dark, medium and light – or bold, thick and thin lines – all are what help make the magic happen. Keep your analytical side in check and trust your impulses.

If you've ever taken a formal art class, you've probably heard of the *Power of Thirds*. This is an approach in managing the real estate by dividing the page into thirds. To draw attention to a main point of interest, invisibly draw two evenly-spaced horizontal and two evenly-spaced vertical lines. Try to make your focal point fall at or near the place where the lines converge. Determine how the separate elements should relate to each other and the space around them. In your rough-draft stage, make the grid and draw your planned elements into it. I found a brief but perfect video for visualization of this concept: [The Rule of Thirds in Drawing and Painting YouTube video](#). Keeping this concept in mind will help you develop your own intuition and decide what works best for you.

In the discussion of layout, we considered symmetry and asymmetry as potential layout possibilities. We find perfect symmetry when two mirrored sides are exactly the same (more formal). Conversely, asymmetry is the absence of symmetry of any kind. Whenever we make a design that consists of elements that we've distributed unevenly around a central point or axis, we'll have an asymmetrical design. Balance is the visual principle of making a design appear equally weighted throughout the composition.



Beth House

Attention to one word within a quote can change the whole dynamic. Add emphasis by using different size, color and/or style. Add a spark with complementary colors. Pick colors that say something about your intention. Move beyond your forever preferences – sometimes it's just a matter of looking at things in a new way. You might be able to nudge it into something you like. Give it a chance.

Consider the appropriateness of your chosen letter style in the message your quote is conveying; for example, would you ever really use Spencerian for a stop sign? Formal or loose, blackletter or italic, pointed pen or automatic pen, or your own handwriting as a graphic element – all can be very cool to add an informal touch.



Diana McDonough

Albert Einstein once said, "Play is a type of research." Creative people are willing to take risks. Play and let play!



Suzi Ickles

LOVE THIS GROUPING!





Cindy Corless

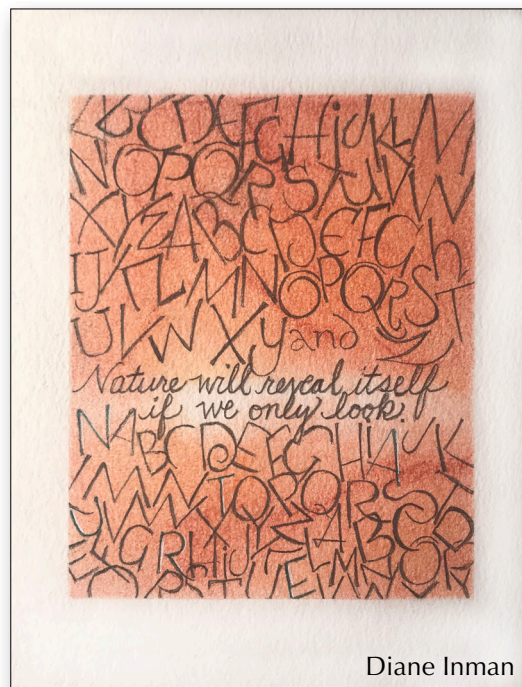
ABOVE and BELOW: A little three-inch accordion book. The squares are just colored shapes. If you can read the letter, abstract in form, that's a bonus. Sometimes you have to work at it to recognize the letters.



Heather Martinez

Consider what shape your block of text adds to the composition. Learn to improvise. Compress, stretch, expand. Anything that feels like an annoyance is a design opportunity. Sometimes a little gem can pop out of the mud with a little added finesse. Pay no attention to the nagging critical voice within! It's all about loving what you're doing. Now is the time to ruin perfectly good paper and enjoy the process.

Hint: You don't want multiple strong elements to fight for attention. Simple and elegant works out roadblocks sometimes. Attribution should be very light and unobtrusive.



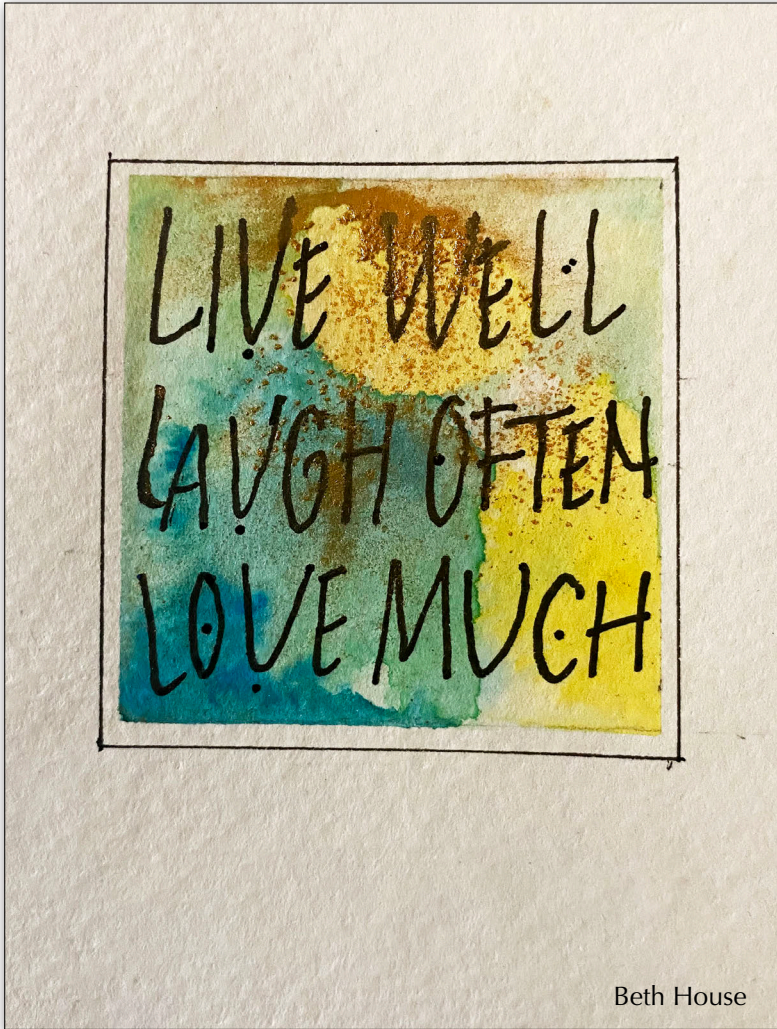
Diane Inman

Pressure, no pressure as we penciled these capitals over light pastel background.

Create fields of pattern and texture with unexpected tools, stretching and/or crowding letters, or stacking with tight interlinear spacing. Faint blocks of text make for a beautiful background effect. When in doubt, use of all caps or Uncial hand are good alternatives. Preplanning with pencil is always a good idea when ascenders and descenders must be considered.



Beth House

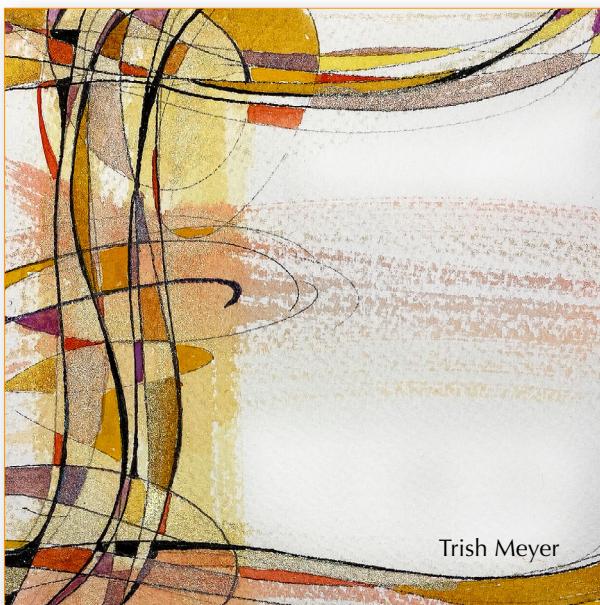


Beth House



Lynda Lawrence

You may recall Mike Gold's suggestion of the *Power of Two* to simplify as much as possible to make a powerful composition with thick/thin, dark/light, big/little. One is a lonely number; you need something as a counterpoint. However, odd numbers are best when laying out elements in a design. Our eyes have an affinity for odd-numbered elements over pairs or even numbers.



Trish Meyer

Place any mark with any tool, any color on the paper and take time to envision the possibilities.

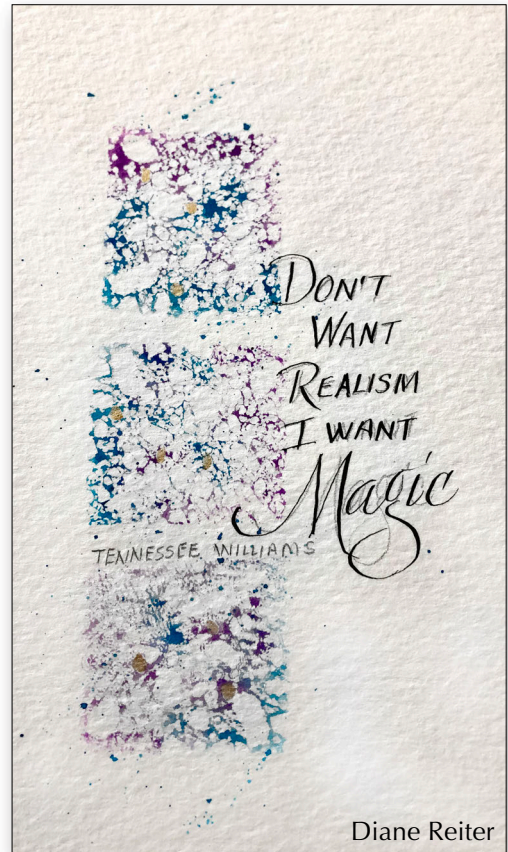


Diane Inman created this four-piece puzzle to send to her nurse friends. She sent the pieces one at a time with inspirational quotes on the back.



Diana McDonough

This one recalls Mike Gold's Power of Two suggestion – one large unit on the page shares a contrast with a smaller unit of colorful expressive lettering. Compose with elements stretched and stacked; note values of dark, medium and light.



Diane Reiter

We painted lightly with a brush onto squares of slightly dampened kitchen sponges to stamp on the page as a background texture.



Suzi Ickles



Diana McDonough



Janice Gabel

Adding odd numbers of elements to a page or design is a good approach in a composition. There are rules, and there are reasons for expanding those rules.



Pam DeGood

Try your non-dominant hand in making random marks. It hasn't been trained to do anything. Add texture and pattern with random abstract marks or lettering.



Ginger Larkin

Creativity is in all of us. We all have had different paths in our life's journey. Education by exploring all forms of art is key to finding your way. Take time to study what you see. Put into words what makes an image successful. Zero in on what attracts your eye. Look to see; look to learn. Thank you, Barbara.



Barbara Close

Celebrating 40 years of  
**LITERALLY LETTERS**

**Ghost Ranch / Abiquiu, NM**

**June 6 – 13, 2021**

*The Painted Word* / Annie Cicale

*Paste Papers That Sing* / Elizabeth McKee

*Monoline Alphabets & Creating Small Treasures* / Carol Pallesen

*Alphabets Inspired by Nature* / Julie Wildman

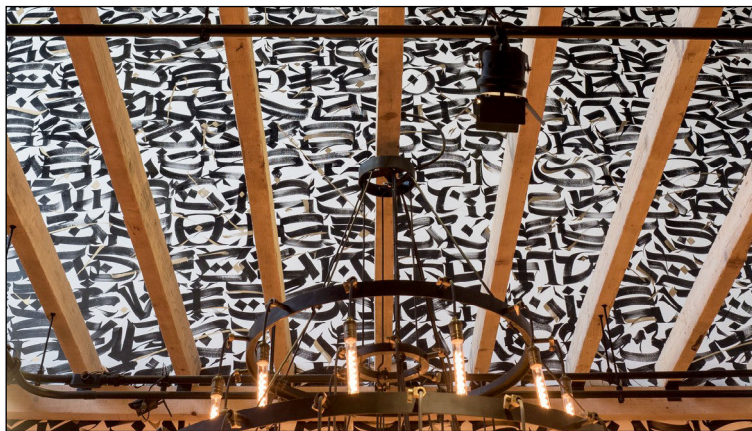
Visit [ghostranch.org](http://ghostranch.org) for more information

Join us for an  
exciting week of  
art and lettering  
in the beautiful  
surroundings of  
Ghost Ranch!



[Website: Ghostranch.org – Literally Letters](http://Ghostranch.org)

Enter the world where words and art and nature collide! Celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> year at Ghost Ranch in June, *Literally Letters* is a week that is a learning experience like no other! Beth House and Amy Jones work all year to make this an unforgettable creative lettering experience.



Above: While visiting San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, **Patty Hammarstedt** was stopped in her tracks at the sight of this calligraphed store interior in a building just off the main plaza. At right is the entry door.

Below: While visiting her family in New York City, they took a walk on the Lower East Side. Fortunate to have camera in hand, they came across this wonderfully calligraphed building.



## BULLETIN BOARD



It's all fun & games  
until someone puts an /out

**NEW MEXICO STATE FAIR**

Do we dare hope for an in-person State Fair exhibit?

It's on the calendar for  
September 9th – 19th

Escribiente members present a juried exhibit each year as part of the Creative Arts Showcase.

It's our next big thing.

**Escribiente YouTube**

Subscribe to Escribiente YouTube channel to view replays of past meeting programs.

We welcome guests and the public who have interest in learning more about the fine art of beautiful lettering.

There's no limit to the information and links to learning opportunities you will find on the Escribiente Facebook page.

**Next Virtual Membership Meeting**

Wednesday  
April 7th, 6:30 PM

**Program:****Bling on Your Letters**  
**Presenter Michal Sommers**

Hands-on program starting with your initial and stylized details added to design a contemporary illuminated letter with a bit of bling.

Escribiente Website  
for future meeting details

Zoom membership meetings are recorded and are available for one week following each meeting. Watch your email from Bill Kemp for the link.

**Escribiente website**

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Do you want your work featured in the Newsletter? Or do you have an article of interest you would like to publish, and/or an event you would like to publicize? Our newsletter is one of the many things that keeps this well-inked machine flourishing. Send information and/or suggestions to: [lynda33@hotmail.com](mailto:lynda33@hotmail.com)

This newsletter is for and about you, so it's only as good as you make it and contribute to it. Any information and/or artwork you have created is welcome! Classes you've attended, tidbits of news, awards you've won, book reviews, a favorite material you can't wait to tell everyone about, upcoming shows, classes you attend as a teacher or student, etc. This is our connection with the calligraphic world in New Mexico and beyond. We always welcome your input, comments, or suggestions.

Founded in 1978, Escribiente is a non-profit organization of persons dedicated to the advancement and promotion of calligraphy. Virtual meetings are held at 6:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month, except January and July. Meetings take place via Zoom until group assembly restrictions are lifted. Meeting access details go out to members via email in advance of each meeting.

Yearly dues are \$20, are not pro-rated, and are payable in June. Members receive discounts to attend workshops, along with access to our extensive library collection. Newsletter back issues can be viewed on our website [escribiente.org](http://escribiente.org). Members also receive a discount at Artisan art supply store in Albuquerque. Dues should be mailed to: Escribiente, PO Box 30166 Albuquerque, NM 87190.