

POSSIBILITIES

'Bear' comes to Popejoy

The award-winning "Bear in the Big Blue House," a popular Disney Channel show, has spawned a live touring production called "On the Road with Bear in the Big Blue House," and it's coming to Popejoy Hall at the University of New Mexico Center for the Arts. Performances will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 16; 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 17; 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18; and 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 19. Tickets are \$12, \$16 and \$20, plus charges. Opening night, all seats are \$10. To order by phone, call 851-5050 or (800) 905-3315. For information, call the Popejoy box office at 277-4569.



ARTS & Culture

AUGUST 12, 2001	
MOVIES •	3 SECTION
ART SHOW REVIEW •	4
GALLERY OPENINGS •	4
BOOKS •	8

THEATER:

ALT gets improvements, readies "The Miser."

2

WORLD PREMIERE:

Music critic reviews "Modern Masters."

6



JOSH STEPHENSON/JOURNAL

MUSEUM QUALITY: Artist Allen Aragon, a former Southwestern Association for Indian Arts Fellowship Award winner, arranges conchas for a special belt he and 11 other artists made to benefit the organization that sponsors the Santa Fe Indian Market.

12 artists, 11 conchas, 1 rare belt

■ *One-of-a-kind piece will be auctioned off to benefit Indian arts group*

BY DAVID STEINBERG

Pride of place

Magnífico exhibit looks at Albuquerque's identity through artists' eyes

BY TRACY DINGMANN
Journal Staff Writer

Sometimes it seems New Mexico is transfixed in a tourist spotlight, with too much attention given to how others see our land, our people and our art. With so many New Mexicans making lovely things and creating magical experiences for tourists to take away, we often lose sight of what it's like to stay here.

So says Suzanne SARGE, curator of a sweeping new Magnífico exhibit that looks at Albuquerque's identity through the eyes of its artists.

Through photographs, paintings, tapestries and sculpture, "Roots & Routes" focuses on the sometimes gritty, sometimes gorgeous and always intriguing things that keep us living in Albuquerque.

The theme of Magnífico's "Roots & Routes" is the 75th anniversary of Route 66, but that's really just a jumping off point for the 63-piece exhibit, SARGE says.

"The fact that Route 66 goes through Albuquerque does not define our city," she writes in a

preface to the exhibit's catalog. "Rather, the roots in our community are what bind us together. Although those traveling through have an impact, the community is comprised of those who stay."

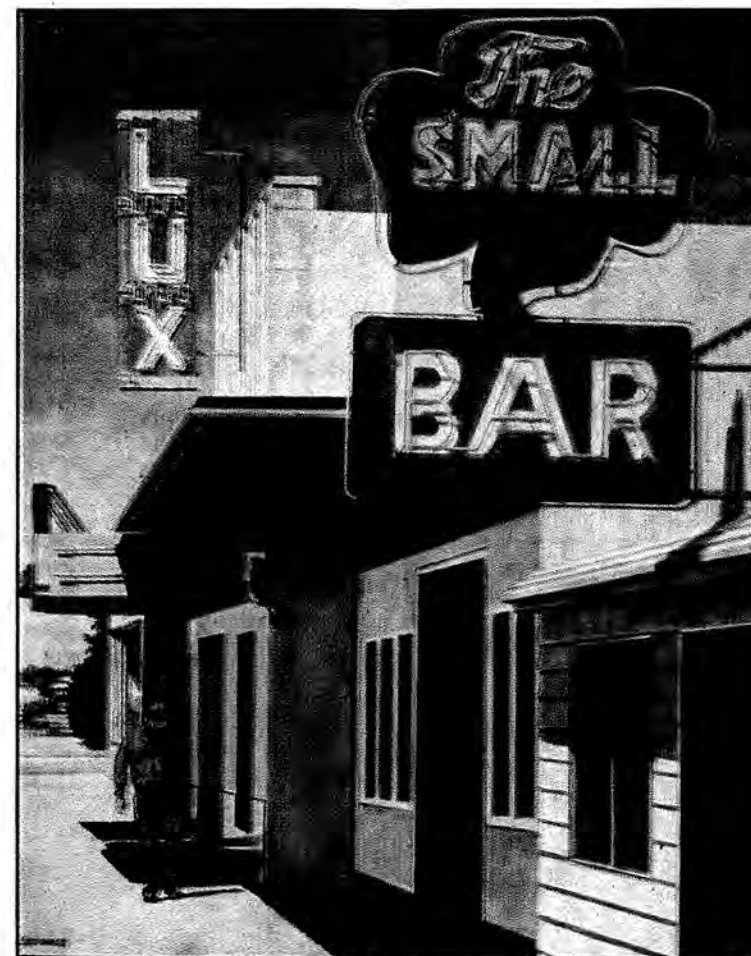
Throughout the exhibit, New Mexico's popularity with idealistic tourists is not ignored, but rather dealt with irreverently, writes Galisteo art commentator Lucy Lippard in the "Roots & Routes" catalog. "Some of these artists are simply celebrating their place and others are looking at their place with a certain irony that includes the tourist gaze," Lippard writes. "And a lot is happening in the cracks between."

The exhibit catalog also includes writings by Rudolfo Anaya and Enrique R. Lamadrid.

In "Roots & Routes," roadside motels, splendid old pickups, washed-out arroyos and back-alley hangouts are rendered in photographs, paintings and collages. Other pieces in the show include sculpture, jewelry, pottery, digital images, video



"THE ARRIVAL": Richard Maitland's collage and oil is included in the new Magnífico show.



"DOWNTOWN": Don Stambler's oil painting is among the 63 pieces of art included in "Roots & Routes."

If you go

WHAT: "Roots & Routes"

WHEN: Opens Saturday, Aug. 18, with a reception from 7-9 p.m. and runs through Sept. 23. Hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays

WHERE: The Albuquerque Museum, 2000 Mountain NW

HOW MUCH: \$2 for adults, \$1 for seniors and children under 12

is usually a repeated series of oval stamped silver disks, sometimes set with turquoise and made by a single artist.

Now, 12 Native American artists have leapfrogged the tradition with a concha belt collaboration that the artists are describing with superlatives like one-of-a-kind.

Though the work is a collaboration, the artists worked on their own in their signature styles. The 11 conchas and buckle are highly individualized pieces from the hands of the artists; one piece does not resemble another.

But the belt won't be for sale in an art gallery.

Nor will it carry a price tag at a booth at next weekend's 80th Santa Fe Indian Market, though the artists will be showing other work there.

The belt will be the centerpiece item to be sold at a live auction Saturday evening at La Fonda. Proceeds of the sale will benefit the Southwestern Association for Indian Arts, the sponsor of Indian Market and the auction.

Navajo artist Daniel "Sunshine" Reeves came up with the idea for the collaborative concha belt and for making SWAIA the beneficiary.

"I got on my cell phone driving out of Santa Fe after last year's Indian Market and called Kenneth Johnson. I thought the best way to do it would be with 12 people. Then last March Kenneth and I decided who to invite," said Reeves, who lives in Albuquerque.

Johnson, a Muscogee/Seminole artist who lives in Albuquerque, is vice chairman of the SWAIA board.

"The native way is based on giving and we wanted to give back," Johnson said. "SWAIA gives artists lots of benefits and we wanted to recognize the impact artists have on Indian Market and on the auction."

'It's Incredible'

Johnson, Reeves and four other collaborators — Ken Romero, who is Taos/Laguna; Veronica Poblano of Zuni Pueblo; Allen Aragon, who is Navajo and Spanish; and Reeves' brother, Gary of Gallup — saw the completed conchas and buckle at a special preview last weekend at Santa Fe's Silver Sun Gallery.

The belt's 12 pieces rested on a white woolen cloth in a gallery display case.



CAST SILVER: Anthony Lovato's concha of cast silver has images of cornstalks and an ear of corn, along with two tassels and two gemstones.



REFLECTIONS ON A VISOR: Zuni Pueblo artist Veronica Poblano was inspired by a trip to British Columbia while designing her concha.



APARTMENT HOUSE LOOK: Ken Romero said his inlay concha resembles a Taos Pueblo apartment, with coral, turquoise and lapis.