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11 Hotel Andaluz, architecture as art

DECEMBER 2008

# albuquerque ARTS

THE ARTS AS LIFESTYLE  
VOL. 12 NO. 11

## The Soul of Art

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Departed souls:  
Tributes >17



Richard Maitland, artist

The City of Albuquerque Presents:

# River of Lights

*A Holiday Light Show*

November 29th - December 30th  
 6:00pm - 9:00pm (Closed December 24th & 25th)  
 Advance Tickets Available Online!

[www.bioparksociety.org](http://www.bioparksociety.org)

**\$7 adults**  
**\$3 children**

Rio Grande Botanic Garden  
 2601 Central Ave. NW  
 Call 311 (Relay NM or 711) - TTY 1-800-659-8331

Martin J. Chávez  
 Mayor

*The Big Splash, 2001. Oil on canvas. 40x50 inches. Collection of Marybeth and Joseph Cusenza*

## Gary T. Erbe

### 40 Year Retrospective

December 21, 2008 - February 15, 2009

*This exhibition was organized by the Butler Institute of American Art*

### The Albuquerque Museum

19th and Mountain Road NW (In Old Town)

505-243-7255 or 311 • Relay NM or 711 • [www.cabq.gov/museum](http://www.cabq.gov/museum)

The Albuquerque Museum is a Division of the Cultural Services Department of the City of Albuquerque. Martin J. Chávez, Mayor

## FIRST FRIDAY

Citywide, December 5, 5-8:30pm

Participating Galleries:

- AIA Albuquerque Gallery 202 Central SE #103
- ArtHaus66 Gallery 6310 Linn Avenue NE
- Arts Alliance Gallery 1100 San Mateo NE
- Bright Rain Gallery 206 1/2 San Felipe NW #122
- Chroma Studios 1696 Central SE Suites 201 & 102
- Desert Corn Gallery Church Street off Romero #2
- Desert Intarsia Gallery 306 San Felipe NW
- Dreamscapes Gallery on 5th 1523 5th St. NW
- Fisher Gallery 1620 Central SE
- Framing Concepts Gallery 5509-B Juan Tabo NE
- Harwood Art Center 1114 7th St. NW
- Hernandez Fine Art and Studio 207 Dartmouth NE
- Inpost Artspace at the Outpost 310 Yale SE
- Mariposa Gallery 3501 Central SE
- Matrix Fine Art 3812 Central SE
- Scott Michael Gallery 113 California St. NE
- N4th Gallery 4904 Fourth St. NW
- New Grounds Gallery 3812 Central SE
- Nob Hill Gallery 7400 Montgomery NE
- Palette Contemporary 7400 Montgomery NE
- Sumner & Dene 517 Central NW
- Weems Gallery 303 Romero NW in Old Town
- Weyrich Gallery 2935-J Louisiana NE
- The Wooden Cow Gallery 7400 Montgomery NE #20

This will also be a fund raiser for OffCenter Community Arts at 808 Park SW which has served Albuquerque for the last seven years by providing a public art studio, a sales shop for participating artists, and a gallery.

Details at [www.artscrawl.org](http://www.artscrawl.org)  
 There is no 3rd Friday ArtsCrawl in December - Back January 2, 2009

## Happy Holidays

AABA would like to thank our member galleries and all you art lovers in the community who continue to make ArtsCrawl a success. You've been with us in good times and in bad since 1999 and you don't know how much we appreciate you. Albuquerque is indeed a city that loves its art. May 2009 be kind to all of you.

## THE ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC ART PROGRAM, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE 2009 LAND ART PROJECT, INVITES ARTISTS TO SUBMIT QUALIFICATIONS FOR A MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL WORK TO BE COMMISSIONED FOR ALBUQUERQUE'S WEST SIDE.

Find details at [www.cabq.gov/publicart](http://www.cabq.gov/publicart)

City of Albuquerque  
 Public Art



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### COMING JANUARY ISSUE:

FRESH STARTS (for the New Year)



#### ON THE COVER:

Our December cover introduces you to artist Richard Maitland in his Rio Rancho home, surrounded by oil paintings, mixed media work and constructions. He has been called an American surrealist by some critics, but he calls his work magic realism – and magic is certainly a part of the Soul of Art. World-traveled and entirely self-taught, Maitland returned to New Mexico, as many do, because of the light. You can view more of his work in his current retrospective at Dreamscapes Gallery on 5<sup>th</sup> (1523 Fifth St. NW), a show organized in honor of his 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday. The show continues through December. Read more on page 12. Photo by Steve Bromberg.



## On the Web



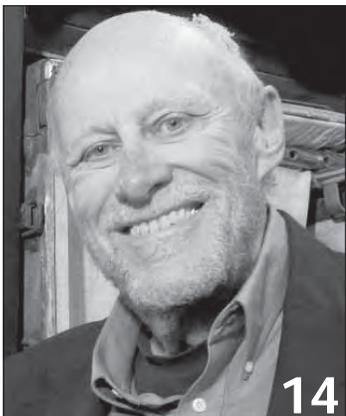
A YOUNG PARTICIPANT ENJOYS THE HANDS-ON EXCITEMENT OF THE BIG READ.



On the Web  
 abqarts.com

Fresh content, weekly, at [abqarts.com](http://abqarts.com):

- New Mexico Book Award winners
- "Charmed" musical duo does their second CD
- UNM's Las Cantantes Christmas CD
- "La Llorona" wails onstage
- The Big Read recap and art installation
- Santa Fe Opera winter events
- Animation as art
- Los Casino Dudes
- Online arts calendar



albuquerqueARTS is a media sponsor of the following events:

- 516 Arts Guerilla Girls – KiMo Theatre
- Art on Film at The Guild Cinema
- Closet Cinema Festival
- High Noon Halloween Dance Party
- PrideFest
- STIR Festival of Words
- Thirsty Ear Festival

## undergroundARTS

Weekend arts events e-mailed directly to you every Friday morning...Sign up now at [www.abqarts.com/e-list](http://www.abqarts.com/e-list).

[abqarts.com/e-list](http://abqarts.com/e-list)

Please let us know what content you'd like to see on our Web site at [www.abqarts.com](http://www.abqarts.com). E-mail Stephanie Hainsfurther, [publisher@abqarts.com](mailto:publisher@abqarts.com).

# Art reflects local octogenarians' lives

BY JANET LONG FORD

"My art is very autobiographical, the sad and the happy part of my life," says Richard Maitland, who convinced Jan Jackson, owner of Dreamscapes Gallery, to call his recent retrospective a celebration of his 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday so people would know he was not dead.

Richard Maitland and Reggie Behl, two area artists both in their 80s, enjoy where life's changes have taken their art.

Maitland's artistic career began on stage where he was a dancer, choreographer and teacher. A 1950s trip to India kicked off his painting career when a Delhi hotel mounted one-man shows for this self-taught artist, exposing his work to such dignitaries as Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Ambassador and Mrs. Ellsworth Bunker, and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

"At that time, I was known for doing romantic, nostalgic little paintings," he says. "I was influenced,

still am, by Edward Hopper and others of that period, the '20s and '30s." He pauses, then adds, "Of course, the people who bought my work 30 or 40 years ago won't really be interested in what I'm doing now. But I couldn't paint little sentimental things much longer."

He freed his art when, after nearly 30 years of operating a Santa Fe gallery and showing in numerous others, he moved to Rio Rancho and quit worrying about galleries. New ideas for his current boxes and third dimensional art come from "almost any sudden source," he says. "I dig up things at the dump or find gold in the junk shop or read something historical, and they all convey what I've always had a thing for—man's insignificance and loneliness."

An independent thinker, he says he communicates through his work. "It's up to the people looking at them to decide what I'm thinking about. If they know me through my work, that's all I ask."

At 22, just out of college and teaching art, Reggie Behl found controversy.



ARTIST REGGIE BEHL IN HER STUDIO. Photos by Steve Bromberg.

Inspired by the Manhattan Project's Oak Ridge, Tennessee, facility where her husband was an engineer, she did a quick watercolor and exhibited it. The building's appearance, it turned out, was classified.

The work, showing at the National Atomic Museum through mid-February, still garners attention. Behl brushes it off. "It's like a child's ABC compared to what I've been doing since." Her painting moved into hard edge, nonobjective acrylics with flat, opaque surfaces, encompassing concepts from her master's thesis.

"From there, I began to collect materials of the modern age," Behl says, adding that ideas often come from materials such as the space and aeronautical ones available through her husband's career. "I've used Teflon, Mylar, extruded metals and leftovers from extrusion or casting procedures, like slag from resin."

At this point, recognition of the grid as

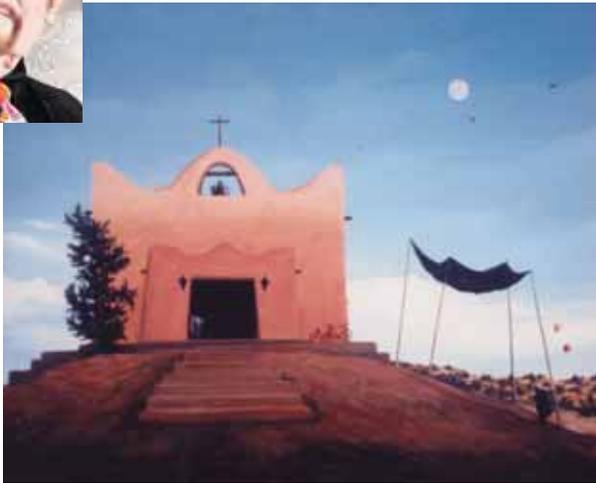
an everyday visual experience influenced her art. "You see the grid in grocery stores and books and calendars, everything you have around you," she points out.

Saying of her current art that she would like the viewer "to feel wonder and magic" and to question her motive, she explains that in her recent show at Jonson Gallery she explored both materials and places, incorporating map grids along with sketches she completes in minutes to enhance and record her extensive world travels. "Unlike photography," she says, "a sketch shows people you're interested in them. They'll do anything for you. I've been invited to a wedding, tasted grandma's cranberry wine and given a cabbage."

As she tells students in the "Quick Sketching for Travel" workshops she has taught for years, "With a few strokes of a pen or pencil, you find the soul of a place."



IN "AFTER THE CELEBRATION," YOU SEE HINTS OF YESTERDAY'S FIESTA IN THE BICYCLE LEFT BEHIND AND THE ABANDONED BALLOONS.



ARTS ALIVE

If you are an Arts Alliance member, call Connie at 505.286.4537 to place an ad.

The City of Albuquerque Presents:

## LIVE @ the KiMo

**Brian Culbertson's**  
A Soulful Christmas 2008  
featuring Vesta, Tony Maiden of Rufus, and Mike Phillips

December 4th, 7:30pm  
Tickets \$32.00 & \$38.00  
ticketmaster: 505-883-7800  
[www.cabq.gov/kimo](http://www.cabq.gov/kimo)

Kimo Box Office 768-3544  
423 Central Ave. NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87102  
Info at 311 (Relay NM or 711)

Martin J. Chávez  
Mayor

RIO GRANDI

Mother Road Theatre Company Presents

## Hellcab

by Will Kern

Christmas Eve on the naked streets of Chicago...  
Anyone can happen.  
A fascinating, funny, and sometimes disturbing ride...

December 5 through 21  
Fri 8pm, Sat 6 and 9pm & Sun 2pm  
Tickets \$15

The Filling Station  
1024 4th St. SW  
Reservations & Info: 505-243-0596  
reservations@motherroad.org

**Dreamscapes Gallery**  
1523 Fifth St. NW, at Bellamah  
Mon.-Tues. & Thur. -Sat., 12-6 p.m.,  
First Friday Artscrawl until 9 p.m.,  
or by appointment 505.688.3190  
[www.dreamscapeson5th.com](http://www.dreamscapeson5th.com)

**National Atomic Museum**  
1905 Mountain Road NW  
Daily, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Closed New Year's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day.  
Admission fee. 505.245.2137  
[www.atomicmuseum.org](http://www.atomicmuseum.org)

—Janet Long Ford is a contributing editor to *albuquerqueARTS*.