

Newest art venue: Town hall

Staff report

Our community's newly renovated Town Hall is being touted in a press release as "one of the best places for local artists to showcase their work and for art enthusiasts and the general public alike to enjoy it. Thanks to the Town's new 'Art in Town Hall' program, artwork from dozens of local artists can be seen inside the 28,000-square-foot building."

A show featuring four photographs by Dorie Hagler is on permanent display in Town Hall, due to efforts by a donor, Taos Land Trust and the town of Taos.

"These photographs honor the traditions of this area and I couldn't be happier that they are permanently on exhibit in Town Hall," said Hagler, a Tempo columnist and well-known local photojournalist. "I am grateful to everyone who helped facilitate the acceptance and the hanging of this gift. I am also thankful for all the people who let me into their lives and their homes so that I can make these images."

Horacio Trujillo of Humanity United made a donation to purchase the photographs; likewise, Humanity United matched Trujillo's gift two-to-one. The photographs were given as a gift to Town Hall, the release states.

"These works by Dorie Hagler resonate with our culture, our history, and our land, and the mission of the Taos Land Trust," said Mayor Darren Córdova, who initiated the program along with Assistant Town Manager Abigail Adame. "Thank you to Ernie Atencio, Dorie Hagler, and Horacio Trujillo for helping us preserve our heritage, and reminding us of our constant connection with our land and our community of art."

Atencio, executive director of Taos Land Trust, added, "Taos Land



Courtesy photo

'El Prado Acequia,' photograph by Dorie Hagler, one of a group on permanent display at Town Hall.

Trust is proud to collaborate on this project. Dorie's images epitomize the unique connection between land and culture — the very quality of this region that creates its 'sacred places' and emphasizes our mission of permanent land conservation."

Hagler's four photographs depict both the natural and cultural landscape of New Mexico. The exhibit photos come from her collection called, "Keeping Faith: A New Mexico Photo Album," published in 2006. To see additional work by Dorie Hagler, visit www.doriehagler.com.

In cooperation with the Town of Taos, several organizations were involved in the program including the Taos Artist Organization (TAO), the Taos Institute for Glass Arts, the Taos Gallery Association and the Taos Center for the Arts.

Along with Hagler's work, the exhibit features work in various mediums from 33 local artists including Mark Asmus, Lyn Avery,

Lorrie Bortner, Donna J. Caulton, Sandy Chestnutt, Bonnie Cooper, Erin Currier (painting on loan to the Town of Taos by The Parks Gallery), Balinda, Chuck Henningsen, Elizabeth Jose, Nancy Lay, Roger Daniel Martínez y Mondragón, J. Mehaffey, Michael Miro, Laurie Hill Phelps, Cris Pulos, Lynda Smith, Robbie Steinback, and Gak Stonn.

Artwork (not including Hagler's exhibit) will be rotated on a quarterly basis, providing an opportunity for other local artists to display their work. A new round of artwork goes up Jan. 28, the release states.

Interested Taos-area artists should contact the curator committee to participate in the "Art in Town Hall" program.

Curator committee members include Bonnie Cooper of the Taos Artist Organization (ripwoman7@msn.com); Michael Miro of the Taos Institute for Glass Arts (mmiro@earthlink.net); Robert Nightingale of

the Taos Gallery Association (info@wnightingale.com); and Dancer Dearing of the Taos Center for the Arts (dancer@tcaos.org).

Art work cannot be sold by the town of Taos at the exhibit site, but artist and gallery contact information will be made available to the public. Each piece of artwork has an information plaque near it, and an overview of all the artists is available in the Town Hall lobby, the release continues.

The public is welcome to see the "Art in Town Hall" exhibits during Town Hall hours, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

For more information on the "Art in Town Hall" program, visit Town Hall, 400 Camino de la Placita, call (575) 751-2000 or visit www.taos.gov.com.

For more information on Taos Land Trust, visit www.taoslandtrust.org or call Ernie Atencio at (575) 751-3138.