CULTURAL COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE:

March 17, 2015

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:

3E

STAFF:

Sharon Rosse, Executive Director, Capital City

Arts Initiative

Vern L. Krahn, Senior Park Planner

REQUEST:

Presentation and discussion only on the Capital City Arts Initiative's Community Center / Sierra Room art exhibition venue, current exhibits and events, and future direction, including the organization's recent receipt of an Andy Warhol Foundation grant and a National Endowment for

the Arts grant.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

The Capital City Arts Initiative (CCAI) is an artist-centered organization committed to the encouragement and support of artists and the arts and culture of Carson City and the surrounding region. It was created when local visual artists recognized the need for contemporary arts program in Carson City. In 2001, the City of Carson City commissioned a city wide art assessment that requested two items: more art by artists from outside the area and additional exhibition venues for local artists. The new organization was delighted to incorporate these goals into its mission.

CCAI is based in Carson City and serves the city and the northwestern Nevada area. CCAI launched its programming in spring 2003 with the Nevada Neighbors series of talks and followed with an Exhibition program in 2004. Now in its 12th season, CCAI presents visual programs throughout the year including: Exhibitions, Artists In Education, Nevada Neighbors, and Exhibition Essays. Each summer, CCAI collaborates with St. Mary's Art Center in Virginia City to produce an artist residency and exhibition.

In addition, CCAI has developed many outstanding partnerships with public entities to present programs in their facilities making the arts readily available for residents and visitors: the Carson City Courthouse, the BRIC, public schools, and now the Community Center's Sierra Room. They are delighted that these partnerships give the public easy access to the arts.

Sharon Rosse, Executive Director, Capital City Arts Initiative will be at this meeting to share with the Commission CCAI efforts related to the Community Center/Sierra Room art exhibition venue, current exhibits and events, and the organization's future direction, including discussing the organization's recent receipt of an Andy Warhol Foundation grant and a National Endowment for the Arts grant (Exhibit A).

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This agenda item is for informational purposes only. No

formal action can be taken at this time.

Exhibit A

HOME (HTTP://ARTS-INITIATIVE.ORG/) PROGRAMS
(HTTP://ARTS (HTTP://ARTS- (NITIATIVE.ORG/HOMI

Exhibition: February 26 – June 30, 2015 at the Carson City Community Center's Sierra Room 851 E. William Street, Carson City, Nevada Open to the public during City meetings, most M – Th evenings

Ron Arthaud Exhibition at the Community Center's Sierra Room

The Capital City Arts Initiative [CCAI] announces its exhibition, Tuscarora, by artist (http://arts-

initiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/arthaud-portrait.jpg) Ron Arthaud at the Carson City Community Center's Sierra Room from February 26 – June 30, 2015. The Community Center is located at 851 E. William Street, Carson City. The exhibition is free and the public is cordially invited.

The Sierra Room is open to the public during Carson City's official meetings including every other Thursday 8am – 5pm, and most weeknights Monday – Thursday, 5pm – 8pm.



Artist Ron Arthaud said finds inspiration for his paintings in everything around him in his hometown Tuscarora, Nevada, and returns the compliment to the historic town by painting his subjects plein air [outdoors]. He said, "I love to see the abstract in nature, squinting and closing one eye, imaging a painting. My paintings are often about capturing the beauty in ordinary, discarded things: rusty cars, a broken down fence, the shadows cast from old pickets in the snow. All becomes a composition, a subject, something my eye wants to linger over. I need to be right there in the environment, holding still, to find a composition and capture the colors I see with my palette of primary paint. My goal is that the "abstract" designs I paint retain the feeling of space, electricity and interaction of the objects, and ultimately express a feeling of place." (http://arts-initiative.org/wp-

content/uploads/2015/03/welcome.jpg)

(http://arts-initiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/green-tea-best.ipg) Ron Arthaud attended the University of Minnesota, Duluth where he received his BFA in 1984. From 1984 – 1987, he studied at the Atelier LeSueur, a small classical realist art school in the Minneapolis area. Following three years of study

in France in the early 1990's, he discovered Tuscarora, Nevada where he now lives with his wife and two small children. In addition to painting, he is restoring their home, an old 1870's building. He shows his art nationally and locally at Stremmel Gallery in Reno.



The Capital City Arts Initiative is an artist-centered organization committed to the encouragement and support of artists and the arts and culture of Carson City and the surrounding region. The Initiative is committed to community building for the area's diverse adult and youth populations through art projects and exhibitions, live events, arts education programs, artist residencies, and online projects.

CCAI is funded in part by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, John Ben Snow Memorial Trust, Nevada Arts Council, City of Carson City, NV Energy Foundation, U.S. Bank Foundation, Nevada Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities, Comstock Foundation for History and Culture, and the John and Grace Nauman Foundation.

[top image: Ron Arthaud]

[right image: Welcome, oil on linen, 16"x26", 2009] [left image: Green Tea, oil on linen, 12"x20", 2014]

This entry was posted on Saturday, March 7th, 2015 at 5:09 pm. It is filed under Exhibitions (http://arts-initiative.org/category/exhibit/) and tagged with Plein Air (http://arts-initiative.org/tag/plein-air/), Ron Arthaud (http://arts-initiative.org/tag/ron-arthaud/), Sierra Room (http://arts-initiative.org/tag/sierra-room/), tuscarora (http://arts-initiative.org/tag/tuscarora/). You can follow any responses to this entry through the RSS 2.0 (http://arts-initiative.org/2015/03/ron-arthauds-tuscarora/feed/) feed.

ABOUT CCAL

The Capital City Arts Initiative is an artist-centered organization committed to the encouragement and support of artists and the arts and culture of Carson City and the surrounding region. Supported by:





Nacional Indoventición de Area

RECENT POSTS

Ron Arthaud's Tuscarora
(http://artsinitiative.org/2015/03/ronarthauds-tuscarora/)
JoAnne Northrup: Bringing
the World to Northern Nevada
(http://artsinitiative.org/2015/03/2942/)
Sarah Lillegard at SENarts
(http://artsinitiative.org/2015/03/sarahlillegard-natural-dyeintroduction/)
Catherine Zurmoskis:
Photography in the Everyday

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-City-Arts-Initiative/96391381287)

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Subscrit (http://art Subscrit (http://art initiative. © 2015 b ARTS IN

CAPITAL CITY ARTS INITIATIVE

The Capital City Arts Initiative is an artist-centered organization committed to the encouragement and support of artists and the arts and culture of Carson City and the surrounding region. The Initiative is committed to community building for the area's diverse adult and youth populations through art projects and exhibitions, live events, arts education programs, artist residencies, and online projects.

CCAI PROGRAMS

· ARTISTS In Education

Artists and curators work with local college, high school, and elementary students on a range of projects.

· EXHIBITIONS

Art exhibitions at the CCAI Courthouse Gallery, 885 E Musser Street and at the BRIC, 108 E Proctor Street, both in Carson City, Nevada.

· NEVADA NEIGHBORS

CCAI's series of illustrated talks on contemporary art practice in the West [and beyond] by curators, art historians, and artists. Co-sponsored with the Carson City Library.

· CCAI ONLINE

- Web site, www.arts-initiative.org, features information on all current CCAI programs and an archive of previous events and exhibition essays.
- "Like" us on Facebook.

· MEMBERSHIP

Your tax-deductible contribution helps support CCAI programs. To become a member, please visit: arts-initiative.org/about/join/

The Capital City Arts Initiative [CCAI] is funded in part by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, John Ben Snow Memorial Trust, Nevada Arts Council, City of Carson City, Nevada Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities, US Bank Foundation, Comstock Foundation for History and Culture, and the John and Grace Nauman Foundation.



CAPITAL CITY ARTS INITIATIVE
PO Box 1333 Carson City NV 8970Z



Scan to learn more about CCAI







NEVAD







PUBLIC TALKS

NEVADA NEIGHBORS: Contemporary Art Practice in the West

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CATHERINE ZUROMSKIS, PHD

University of New Mexico

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Tuesday · 7pm March 3, 2015

JOANNE NORTHRUP

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Tuesday · 7em March 31, 2015

BRIC 108 E PROCTOR STREET CARSON CITY • NEVADA

FREE Admission
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NOLAN PREE

THE DRIEST STATE: NEVADA WATERSHEDS

February 6 - May 28, 2015

Artist Talk in the Gallery • 5:30pm Friday, February 6 • 5 - 7pm Reception for the Artist

Exhibition Essay by Mary Webb

This exhibition is supported by a lead donation from the NV Energy Foundation.

The Capital City Arts Initiative (CCAI) is funded in part by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, John Ben Snow Memorial Trust, Nevada Arts Council, City of Carson City, Nevada Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities, US Bank Foundation, Comstock Foundation for History and Culture, and the John and Grace Nauman Foundation.

NEVADA



Free admission . The public is cordially invited Gallery Hours: Mon - Fri • 8am - 5pm Cover Image photo courtesy of the artist: Quinn River Sink - Black Rock Playa, NY, 2009; digital archival pigment print









The Capital City Arts Initiative [CCAI] is delighted to present The Driest State: Nevada Watersheds, a solo exhibition by artist Nolan Preece at the CCAI Courthouse Gallery from February 6 – May 28, 2015. In conjunction with the exhibition, CCAI commissioned writer Mary Webb to write the following essay. CCAI extends its sincere appreciations to Nolan, Mary, the Carson City Courthouse, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, NV Energy Foundation, and all those involved in the exhibition.

From a Desert Sky: Capturing Nevada Watersheds

"There it is: Take it," William Mulholland, engineer for the Los Angeles aqueduct, on viewing Owens River water flowing through the canal into the San Fernando Valley, California, November 5, 1913.

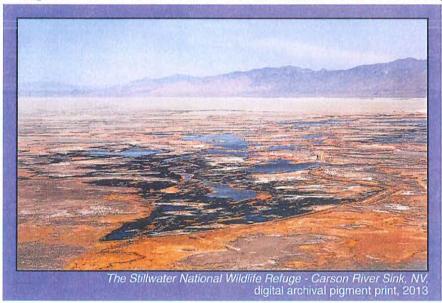


Nolan Preece's photographic work on western watersheds documents how we live within the driest state. Preece's stark images show myriad ways in which human activity has altered the Nevada desert, where rainfall averages fewer than seven inches per year. We have transformed parts of the Nevada desert into a wetter, greener, more productive place, but as Preece's work shows, many of these actions have imperiled our watersheds. Rivers transformed by damming no longer support native fishes or plant habitats; riparian areas no longer flood; landscapes altered by mining are threatened by contaminated water and fugitive dust both of which can trigger serious health effects. Drought, fire, invasive species, and climate change have further transformed the land.

Nolan Preece, a Utah native, has spent his lifetime taking photographs of iconic western vistas, from Alaska to the Grand Canyon. Preece uses photography to promote environmental advocacy and awareness. His exhibition bears witness to the importance of water and watersheds in the arid west, particularly in the desert landscape of Nevada. Preece credits his interests in photography and the environment to his father, Erland's, influence: "We always had a darkroom in the house. I remember well my father setting up his 4x5 camera and waiting patiently for the clouds or light to change," Preece writes. Erland Preece studied the work of Ansel Adams and modeled environmental

activism in his rural Utah community. In the 1950s, his father's photographs promoted awareness of a controversial dam project, Echo Park, in the Dinosaur National Monument in rural Utah. At that time, the Bureau of Reclamation's dam projects proliferated throughout the west. Nolan recalls that his politically conservative father understood and wanted to alert the public to the damage that a dam such as the one proposed in Echo Park would create. Erland's photos, published in the local newspaper, helped educate his neighbors about the dangers of the proposed dam, which was relocated to another site at Flaming Gorge. Nolan Preece's early exposure to the power of photography to speak for wild places launched his life work in both photography and environmental advocacy.

Nolan Preece is Professor Emeritus of Photography and former Gallery Curator at Truckee Meadows Community College in Reno, Nevada. Preece earned an MFA in photography at Utah State University and has devoted his career to fine art photography, printmaking, and digital photography. Just after earning his degree, Preece worked as a field technician for a Utah oil exploration company.



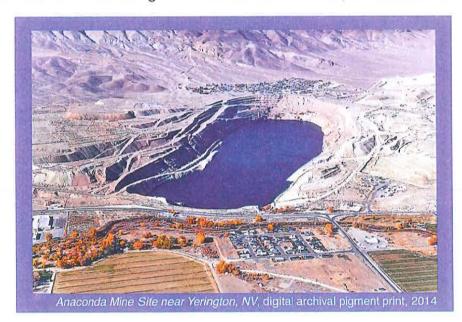
This experience involved photographing large tracts of undeveloped land in eastern Utah, solidifying Preece's environmental interests. As these photographs show, Preece sometimes works from a small plane to shoot aerial images, and this process enables us to see the breadth Nevada watersheds. In sharp contrast to Mulholland's arrogant words, "There it is. Take it," Preece "takes" the opportunity to capture the desert's beauty and compel viewers to consider the costs of living in a fragile landscape.

Preece's twenty-nine images in *The Driest State: Nevada Watersheds* demonstrate an artistic vision that is both "splendid and condemnatory," as art critic Jonathan Goodman has written. The images portray the costs of occupying an arid land. Many of us know from these past drought years what happens to the yard or garden when the water is turned off, but we may not realize the importance of *our watershed*, the geographic term for an area that is divided or bounded by a source of water draining to the same place. It seems appropriate to quote famed river explorer and scientist John Wesley Powell here. Powell described a watershed as "[an] area of land, a bounded hydrologic system, within which all living things are inextricably linked by their common water course and where, as humans settled, simple logic demanded that they become part of a community."

Powell's definition underscores the word community, a word that evokes human interdependence and mutual support. Communities hold each of us, human and non-human alike; each drop of water that falls as snow or flows from lakes or streams into this community means life itself. Our

watershed is not "a building out back," as Nolan joked. Rather, the Truckee, Carson, and Walker River watersheds tie each community to waterways that rise in the Sierra Nevada. Damming these desert rivers alters the ecosystems that depend for survival on that water; diverting these rivers exacerbates the effects of drought (a constant in the Great Basin). These overtaxed waterways reveal the effects of a changing climate.

The Truckee River flows from jewel-like Lake Tahoe to Pyramid Lake in the desert. This unusual watershed—a river connecting two lakes—was forever altered in the early twentieth century, with the building of Derby Dam, east of Reno. This watershed compels us to see connections: from Pyramid's briny depths, the famed Lahontan Cutthroat Trout would migrate upstream, following the Truckee's cool waters to spawn. Historically, the perception of deserts as wastelands engendered the view that water flowing into a desert lake was "wasted" and should be put to more beneficial use. Thus Derby Dam (the first of many Federal irrigation projects)was completed in 1905. For first half of the twentieth century, Derby Dam diverted nearly fifty percent of the Truckee's water for irrigation, decimating Pyramid Lake and combining the waters from two rivers, the Truckee and Carson. This



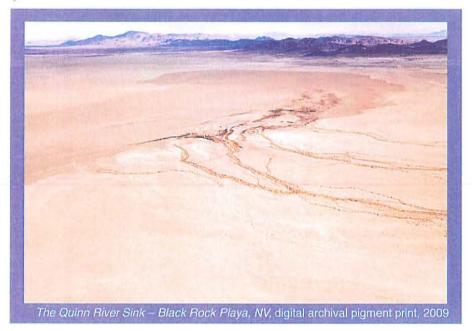
single dam nearly wiped out the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout and the pre-historic Cui-ui of Pyramid Lake even as it helped develop agriculture in the Lahontan Valley. This complex waterway terminates at Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, a major bird and wildlife oasis in the desert. Thanks to legislation passed in the 1990s, expanded water flows into the Marsh to protect the refuge and restore natural biodiversity.

Other desert rivers such as the Carson and Walker have paid the price of such alterations for human use. So much water has been taken out of the Walker River that the level of Walker Lake has dropped over 140 feet. Preece's view of Walker Lake on a windy day illustrates how much airborne dust an exposed lakeshore produces.

Not far from Walker Lake lies the now-abandoned Anaconda copper mine, the source of another, more tainted dust. Preece's "Anaconda Mine" image shows a "lake" that formed when the mine ceased operations and stopped pumping groundwater. Some of Anaconda's threats to the watershed include "contaminated groundwater and contaminated fugitive dust that could impact human health and surface water," according to the Environmental Protection Agency (http://yosemite.epa.gov/r9/sfund/r9sfdocw.nsf/vwsoalphabetic/Anaconda+Mine).

Preece's aerial views of the Quinn River in the Black Rock Desert remind us that we live in "the driest state." Photographed from several thousand feet above ground level, the Quinn's intermittent flows and occasional floods etch sinuous patterns into the desert. As writer John Hart observes about the Black Rock, "these are the deserts where "mountain streams lay down their salt sediments and evaporate away," (Hiking the Great Basin, 346). The Quinn River views evoke the desolation that many of us feel when we think of the Nevada desert.

Preece also focuses our attention on the Fremont cottonwood trees near Fort Churchill to demonstrate the consequences of drought and climate change on a desert ecosystem. The montage juxtaposes beautiful fall color in the cottonwood trees with a dry riverbed. The Fremont cottonwoods are threatened, unable to regenerate without the episodic flood events that once characterized the Carson River flows. Without flooding, the familiar white fluffs have no muddy bank in which to implant and grow. Diminished water flows lower the water table, starving tree roots. These conditions, combined with increased heat, make the trees vulnerable to insects and other pathogens. Native plant communities protect the watersheds.



The Driest State photographs present stunning and solemn images of Nevada watersheds, both the scenic and controversial. Despite an overwhelming sense of our negative impacts on desert land and water, an optimistic perspective emerges. We can imagine Preece, strapped into a small plane, flying over desert land forms, "always looking for the next opportune shot," as he recently remarked. Whether shooting images on the ground or from the air, Preece "takes" the opportunity to capture for his viewers the life-giving watersheds "out back."

Mary Webb Reno, Nevada January 2015



Capital City Arts Initiative www.arts-initiative.org

CCAI is funded in part by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, John Ben Snow Memorial Trust, Nevada Arts Council, City of Carson City, NV Energy Foundation, U.S. Bank Foundation, Nevada Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities, Comstock Foundation for History and Culture, and the John and Grace Nauman Foundation.

Local galleries are named 'unmissable' by culture website

Nevada Appeal staff report

Capital City Arts Initiative's Courthouse Gallery in Carson City and St. Mary's Art & Retreat Center in Virginia City were two of 10 unmissable spots for art lovers in Nevada — as listed by The Culture Trip, a website showcasing the art, food and culture of countries around the world.

The Courthouse Gallery, at 885 E. Musser St., was noted for its exhibits by local, national and international artists. The venue also hosts literary events, public talks and other events throughout the year.

Its current exhibition by Paula Chung features embroidered images based on medical MRIs and floral quilts on hand-dyed silks. The display, titled "Silk & Sinew," will be featured through Jan. 22.

St. Mary's Art & Retreat Center, 55 N. R St., which was once a hospital for Comstock miners, was recognized for its historical significance to the region.

Besides its six galleries, the center's other facilities, including a darkroom, printmaker's room and studio, as well as its variety of workshops and even an artist-in-residence program sets the gallery apart from other venues.

Its current display features abstract painting by Nes Lerpa, photography by Megan Berner and portraits by Jessica White.

For more information about the other galleries on the list — including Neapolitan Gallery, Nevada Museum of Art, Sierra Arts Gallery and Stremmel Gallery in Reno; Northeastern Nevada Museum in Elko; and Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art, The Neon Museum and Trifecta Gallery in Las Vegas - go to http://theculturetrip.com/north-america/ usa/nevada/articles/nevadas-10-unmissable-spots-forart-lovers/.

For more information about Capital City Arts Initiative's Courthouse Gallery, go to arts-initiative.org, or email info@arts-initiative.org. For more about St.

Mary's Art & Retreat Center, call 775-847-7774, or go to stmarysartcenter.org.



580 Mallory Way Carson City, Nevada 89701 Call 775-882-2111 or 1-800-221-8013 Fax 775-887-2420

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Correction policy

The Nevada Appeal will correct errors of fact that appeared in news articles on its pages. If you know of a correction that should be made, call 775-882-2111 and ask for the news department.

Submissions

Press releases about events, meetings, engagements, weddings, significant anniversaries, births, Cheers & Kudos letters, military reports, graduations, and other honors can be sent to editor@nevadaappeal.com. Items are printed in the order received and may take a few weeks.

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CCAI receives **Andy Warhol** Foundation grant

By Capital City Arts Initiative

The Capital City Arts Initiative has received a \$50,000 grant from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. The grant will provide for 2015 and 2016.

"We are thrilled and honored with the Warhol Foundation's support and encouragement," said CCAI Executive Director Sharon Rosse said. "The grant will help CCAI continue producing its exhibitions and public talks to benefit residents of Carson City and Northern Nevada."

The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts is a national funder that supports a diverse array of projects and organizations around the country and abroad. When Andy Warhol died in 1987, his will dictated that the bulk of his estate be used to create a foundation dedicated to the "advancement of the visual arts." The primary focus of the Foundation's grant making activity has been to support the creation, presentation, and documentation of contemporary visual art, particularly work that is experimental, under-recognized, or challenging in nature.

For a complete listing of projects receiving Warhol Foundation grants, visit www.warholfoundation.org.

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City of Carson City Agenda Report

Date Submitted: February 24, 2015	Agenda Date Requested: March 5, 2015 Time Requested: 10 Minutes
To: Mayor and Board of Supervisors	
From: Parks and Recreation Department Capital City Arts Initiative (CCAI)	
Subject Title: Presentation by the Capital City Arts in the Community Center's Sierra Room. (Vern L. F.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Staff Summary: In discussions with City Manager, staff, and CCAI representatives, a new venue has beevenue is the Sierra Room in the Community Center.	
Type of Action Requested: (check one) () Resolution () Ordi () Formal Action/Motion (_X) Other	nance er (Special Presentation)
Does This Action Require A Business Impact Star	tement: () Yes (X) No
Recommended Board Action: This agenda item is Supervisors action is required at this time.	for presentation purposes only. No Board of
•	g the Sierra Room as an exhibition venue. At ector, would like to thank Mr. Marano and City staff ervisors information about the artist and his painting
Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regular	tion: N/A
Fiscal Impact: N/A	
Explanation of Impact: N/A	
Funding Source: N/A	
Alternatives: N/A	
Supporting Material: Artist Bio and Statement	
Prepared By: Vern L. Krahn, Senior Park Planner	
Reviewed By:(Department Head)	Date:

BIO

Ron Arthaud attended the University of Minnesota, Duluth where he received his BFA in 1984. From 1984 – 1987, he studied at the Atelier LeSueur, a small classical realist art school in the Minneapolis area. Following three years of study in France in the early 1990's, he discovered Tuscarora, Nevada where he now lives with his wife and two small children. He spends his time painting plein air [outdoors] and restoring their home, an old 1870's building. He shows his art nationally and locally at Stremmel Gallery in Reno.

ARTIST STATEMENT

"I love to see the abstract in nature, squinting and closing one eye, imaging a painting. My paintings are often about capturing the beauty in ordinary, discarded things: rusty cars, a broken down fence, the shadows cast from old pickets in the snow. All becomes a composition, a subject, something my eye wants to linger over. I need to be right there in the environment, holding still, to find a composition and capture the colors I see with my palette of primary paint. My goal is that the "abstract" designs I paint retain the feeling of space, electricity and interaction of the objects, and ultimately express a feeling of place."

CCAI Art exhibition Tuscarora by Ron Arthaud in the Sierra Room, Carson City Community Center

Ron Arthaud

° Before the Snow media: oil on linen size: 36" x 58" date: 2009 value: \$3,950

° Green Tea media: oil on linen size: 12" x 20" date: 2014 value: \$1,000

° August Cloud media: oil on linen size: 11" x 44" date: 2014 value: \$700

Welcome

media: oil on linen size: 16" x 26" date: 2009 value: \$1,400

Bright Morning
media: oil on canvas
size: 11" x 30"
date: 2011

value: \$1,200

° Evening's End media: oil on canvas

size: 20" x 42" date: 2012 value: \$2,500

o Morning Angles media: oil on canvas

size: 18" x 20" date: 2013 value: \$1,400

Windproof

media: oil on canvas

size: 16" x 18" date: 2009 value: \$1,225 ° Well Mended media: oil on canvas

size: 12" x 26" date: 2008 value: \$1,200

° *January on Main* media: oil on canvas

size: 18" x 26" date: 2011 value: \$1,500

° Afternoon, South media: oil on canvas

size: 10" x 26" date: 2014 value: \$1,200