

# THE

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# GLEANNERS

**Glean:** v. 1. to gather (information) bit by bit 2. to gather the useful remnants after harvesting [Old French glener]

## Welcome

to Off Center's new, new newsletter, which we are planning to publish bi-monthly. Every issue will profile a different Off Center artist. Questions, comments, input? We want to hear from **you!**

**FEATURED OFFCENTER ARTIST: HENRY KENNISON**

## From Katrina to Albuquerque



The Downtown Action Team found out that I was an artist and had somebody donate a booth to me for the **Go!** Downtown Albuquerque Arts Festival on Gold and Fourth but I didn't have any paint, no canvas, no equipment, no brushes.

Claudia Reiter, who was the director at OFFCenter got all the equipment and canvases and everything I needed. That was Thursday. I had to set up the show for Friday morning so I stayed up all night. I did almost 30 paintings in just that short time. I did the paintings right here at OFFCenter.

I made it here to Albuquerque from Hurricane Katrina in 2005. I was in waist-high, foul water for eight days. I was rescued by a military chopper, me and nine other people. They took us to the New Orleans airport then we flew by plane to Dallas, Texas but we couldn't go to the convention center there because it was full. We couldn't even get off the plane. Police surrounded the plane. We felt like hostages. A whole lot of New Orleans people like me on the plane were already devastated from the hurricane, being in the water for that many days. We were hungry, we were tired.

After the **Go!** show, everything quieted down so I talked to Claudia and the people at OFFCenter and told them I would like to do a mural of Katrina. I never dreamed that a couple of weeks later I would come into OFFCenter and see these 10-by-7 stretch canvases against the wall. I asked what was going on and Claudia said, "You wanted to do a mural on Katrina. There it is. You can start. We have all the paints and brushes that you wanted."

The next thing we know, we're up in the air again and they say we're coming to Albuquerque, New Mexico. A lot of people didn't know where Albuquerque, New Mexico was. All we knew was Mexico. We didn't know much about New Mexico or Los Lunas or Santa Fe.

There were three panels and I asked some of the artists here if they would help me, would they like to paint a little. I designed it. I drew it out on the canvas. I started the first panel off myself and I wanted to share.

But we made it to the Albuquerque Convention Center and it was lovely because Albuquerque people came by, the police department treated us real good, we got all the food we wanted, we had clothes that people donated and we felt welcome.

When you look at the murals, you can see the devastation, you can see the heartache, you can see the grief, you can see people on the tops of roofs with their signs saying "HELP," but you can also see children playing and you see a bulldozer cleaning things up and, on the last panel, I have the Sandia Mountains. It's a process of rebuilding and reviving, rebuilding and reviving.

## call for entries Exquisite Corpse

Deadline: March 18, 2009 for  
Opening Exhibit, Fri, March 20th,  
5-8 pm with Poetry Performance  
@6:30pm. Hosted by Micaela Seidel,  
& other exceptional, local poets!

**Get Ready!**  
**Albuquirky**  
**House Tour**  
Saturday,  
May 2, 2009

Gain entry to view some  
of Albuquerque's most  
unusual art and meet the  
people who care for it!

**offcenter**  
community arts project

808 Park Ave SW • Downtown ABQ  
New Mexico • 87102 • 505-247-1172  
[www.offcenterarts.org](http://www.offcenterarts.org)

building community through artmaking. make art. buy art. meet new friends.

# CALENDAR

Tuesdays - 3pm Handmade Thank You Cards  
Tuesdays - 1-4pm Drawing with David Blecha  
Wednesdays, 3:30pm Free Guitar Lessons-iCreate  
Thursdays, 5:30pm Emerging Artists Meeting

Friday, March 6, 5:00pm • First Friday Coffeehouse • Live Music! with The Cerrillos Islanders, hosted by Bonnie Bluhm

Saturday Workshop, March 7, 9:30am  
THE ETHICS OF NATURE

Thursday, March 12  
3:00pm • artXchange - a Gallery Talk with Delilah Montoya at 516 ARTS, 3pm. OFFCenter reception, 4:15pm

Saturday Workshop, March 14  
12:00pm • Reinventing Tee Shirts with Tirzah DeCaria

Sunday, March 15  
1:00pm • Introduction to Silk Painting with Claudia Fluegge

Monday, March 16, 6:00pm • Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, March 20, 5:00 - 8:00pm Exquisite Corpse - ART EXHIBIT Opening & Poetry Performance @ 6:30pm

Saturday Workshop, March 21 9:00am (one day)  
Jesse Reno - "Painting From The Inside Out"

Sunday & Monday Workshop, March 22 & 23 (two day)  
Jesse Reno - "Painting From The Inside Out"

Saturday, March 28, Noon-4pm  
Monotype Printmaking with Cathy Wysocki

Friday, April 3, 5-8pm • First Friday Coffeehouse

Monday, April 20, 6:00pm • Board of Directors Meeting

## THANKS! we couldn't do it without you!

516 ARTS • Harwood Art Center • Aiken Printing  
Winning Coffee Co. • Java Joe's • Aspen Printing • NM Arts  
Downtown Action Team • Mama's Minerals • Artscrawl  
Aryen & Molly & Harley & Jude • The McCune Foundation  
CCHD • Bernalillo County • City of ABQ UTEF  
ABQ Center for Spiritual Living • Kathleen & Bonnie

Our apologies for any omissions, so many people help OFFCenter, but we will remember you in the following newsletters



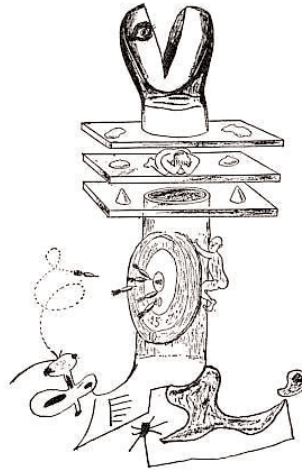
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LOCATION NEAR YOU.

Thanks to  
The Harwood  
Art Center &  
their generous  
support of  
OFFCenter!

## Studio Artists! Wanna play? Create an Exquisite Corpse



It's a Surrealist Game.  
Please pick up a **Call for Entries** form at the studio, call 247-1172 or go online to [offcenterarts.blogspot.com](http://offcenterarts.blogspot.com) and download a pdf. Deadline for artwork is Wed, March 18.  
**Art Opening, Fri, March 20,** 5-8 pm Poetry Performance & Word play game @ 6:30pm.

# artXchange

OFFCenter + 516 ARTS

**Gallery Talk with Delilah Montoya**  
**Thursday, March 12, 2009 3pm @ 516ARTS,**  
516 Central Ave, SW • Guided Tour **3:30pm** Gallery Talk  
**4:15pm Reception @ OFFCenter Studio,**  
down the street at 808 Park Ave SW

Delilah Montoya, artist and curator of the show **Chicana Badgirls** will give a gallery talk at 516 ARTS for all OFFCenter artists. OFFCenter will then host a reception and tour of the OFFCenter studio for Delilah. This is a wonderful chance to exchange ideas, knowledge and experiences with each other. Please call 247-1172 to express your interest. Thanks! Open and free to the community.

## Handmade Thank You Cards

Please join with the OFFCenter Board members in creating some handmade cards to send to all the folks who help keep OFFCenter alive! Their generosity is keeping us chugging along and we need to tell our funders, big and small, past and present! Every **Tuesday, starting March 3, at 3 pm** there will be a table set up especially for this activity. **Karen Turner**, card maker extraordinaire will be starting off the process. Everyone is encouraged to help us show the people who appreciate us that we appreciate them!  
**We need OFFCenter!**

## FIRST FRIDAY Coffeehouse

Every First Friday!

! live music & art !

**Fridays - March 6  
April 3, May 1, June 5**