

*For Immediate Release*

Center for the Arts in Crested Butte

Contact: Jamie Booth, Program Manager

970.349.7487, ext 4

jamie@crestedbuttearts.org

## **A Visual Arts Explosion**

### **The Center for the Arts and Studio Art School Team Up with Expanded Programming**

The Center for the Arts and The Studio Art School have joined forces to create The Art Studio of the Center for the Arts, or ASCA. And on this Monday, October 10, ASCA opens its creative doors in a new space at 111 Elk Avenue.

The Studio Art School has closed its location next to Clark's Market and will now offer its adult visual arts programming through this new location in partnership with the Center, and its children's programming through the Trailhead Children's Discovery Museum in Mt. Crested Butte.

Melissa Mason, proprietor of The Studio Art School, will manage the physical space at the new ASCA; work collaboratively with the Center on program design; hire and manage instructors; and provide the technical artistic equipment. Mason, who designed and implemented visual arts programs at three other schools including the Slate River School and Crested Butte Academy, is also a member of the Arts Alliance and the Visual Arts ad hoc committee of the Center's Board of Directors. The committee's goal is to assist the Center in developing a new vision for the visual arts in the community, and to provide feedback on the expanded facility plan related to the visual arts spaces.

The Center brings its non-profit mission of offering engaging opportunities and educational experiences to enrich and expand the life of the community to the mutually beneficial partnership. Additionally, the Center is offering financial, marketing and professional support to the ASCA.

“What we're going to be able to accomplish together is so much more than I could ever have done on my own,” says Mason, “The visual arts in this valley are ready to ignite. Working with the Center and the Arts Alliance is what's allowing the big picture visions to actually begin happening.”

The Center for the Arts' number one goal is to be recognized as a “best-in-class” facility for visual and performing arts. Its stated Values are to provide art for everyone; to add creativity, innovation and diversity to the life of the community; and to extend accessibility to art through diverse programming. Now, with the new partnership with The Studio Art School, and its incredible roster of workshops, classes and lectures, those visions are becoming a fast reality in the visual arts.

“We are only able to have limited offerings of visual arts because we don't have the space in our current facility,” says Jenny Birnie, Executive Director for the Center, “Opening the new space on Elk Avenue with The Art Studio allows us to grow our adult visual arts programming in preparation for the Center's expansion.”

The Art Studio of the Center for the Arts rockets into action on October 12<sup>th</sup> with classes in Printmaking, Introduction to Ceramics and Introduction to Drawing (see “Center Stage” for more details). Throughout the year, ASCA plans to provide a variety of eight-week classes in ceramics; photography; painting; drawing; printmaking; graffiti, spray paint and modern street art; crochet and knitting; sewing; jewelry making; and Meet the Masters classes which combine art and art history instruction.

Also available will be single session workshops, private lessons, private parties, events for local organizations, Women's Retreats, Guest Artist Lectures, Community Critique Sessions, Continuing Education for Local Artists, and Apprenticeships and Continued Visual Art Education for Youth.

The Shared Artists' Space memberships, or SAS, also continues at ASCA. Here, local artists

may use the ASCA for their own projects with 24-hour, seven day a week access; personal storage for supplies and works in progress; access to the potter's wheels and other ceramics supplies; and use of the kiln. Memberships are \$85 per month or \$80 per month when signing up for the entire year. Artist and ceramicist Laura Elm is the Managing Artist for the SAS. As a working studio, the ASCA will also have gallery sales as part of its storefront where patrons may purchase local art.

The community will still have the opportunity to paint pottery at the ASCA through scheduled painting days (such as Ornament Painting Day in December) and by group or family appointments.

“This is step one of a five-year plan the Visual Arts ad hoc committee is working on,” says Mason, “The Art Studio is becoming a team player in the broader picture of bringing people to the valley for visual arts. We see this area becoming a visual arts mecca. Getting people excited about this type of programming paves the way for the Center's planned expansion.”

An Open House will be held at The Art Studio of the Center for the Arts on Thursday, October 27 from 5 to 7 p.m. where the community can come to learn about the new visual arts programming being offered and see the Shared Artist Space.