



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Joy Reed Belt

405.528.6336

gallery@jrbartgallery.com

www.jrbartgallery.com

EVENTS

Opening Reception

Friday, December 6, 2019, 6 – 9 pm

JRB Art at The Elms Presents

Jim Keffer: “Moments”

Jean Richardson: “Theme and Variation”

OKLAHOMA CITY – Christmas is a time of meaning, wonder, and tradition, it is also the season to appreciate creativity in all forms. In December at JRB Art at The Elms Gallery in the Paseo Arts District, Jean Richardson and Jim Keffer will be featured during the district’s First Friday Walk. The event, which begins at 6 p.m., will present the modern primitive style of Jim Keffer and the iconic, abstract, and focused contemporary acrylics of Jean Richardson.

“We are delighted to have these two talented and diverse artists in our gallery,” said Joy Reed Belt, Owner/Director.

Jim Keffer is a self-taught artist. His work is born from a lifetime of observing places in the landscape and places of the heart. He started painting when he was 47 years old and states, “My past journeys are connected to my future travels and I have an infinite source of places, thoughts, and things to paint in my style which I call modern primitive.” Painting for him comes from a primal place. “I believe folk art to be my primal truth, so my painting journey has been to pare away modern life and try to be in that primal place – to be in that moment that is new, which is a time of color before there was paint, a time of imagery before there was painting,” he said. As his painting journey has progressed, Keffer has come to own this as his truth.

From his studio near Guthrie, Oklahoma, Keffer now 67, continues painting and observing with his wife, Laurie, a dog and numerous cats. He calls his studio “Rhythms”. Keffer says he will retire when the brush falls from his hand.

Expressing the spirit and energy of the American West, Richardson’s paintings often feature abstract horses galloping across the canvas or standing in the moonlight. Her choice of subject matter evolved early on as she explored the events around her. She states, “The horse as an ‘Icon’ became the vehicle to express my true themes of motion and energy. Over the years, I have tried to say the same thing over and over but with limitless variations. I value the fresh gestural brush stroke and unconventional juxtaposition of color.”

A native of Hollis, Oklahoma, Richardson earned her B.F.A. degree from Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia, and continued to study with the Art Students League in New York. Her work has been exhibited at the National Academy of Design, the Minnesota Museum of Art, the Gilcrease Museum, the Philbrook Museum, the John Szoke Gallery in New York, and the Merrill-Chase Galleries in Washington D.C. and Chicago. Richardson’s murals are at the Oklahoma State Capital building, the Oklahoma House of Representatives, and the Oklahoma City Courthouse.

Also featured this month is a collection of decorative paintings: B + E Simple, created by mother and daughter team Beth Hammack and Elizabeth Degrits, nee Wright, which is making its Oklahoma City debut. The single colored rectangles on white backgrounds come in a variety of shades: white, tan, charcoal and olive, are perfect for both minimalist and maximalist environments.

All of these artists’ works will be available to view at JRB Art at The Elms from December 1 – December 31, 2019.

About JRB Art at the Elms

JRB Art at The Elms presents a diverse roster of emerging, established, and internationally exhibited artists who create in a ` range of media including paintings, drawings, sculpture, ceramics, glass, fine crafts, functional objects, fiber art and photographs. This 8,000-square foot award-winning gallery in Oklahoma City’s Paseo Arts District changes its exhibits monthly in a gracious environment that fosters a dialogue between the arts and the larger community while providing quality art for first time buyers as well as individual, corporate and museum collections.

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