

~THE INDULGENCE ISSUE~

DENVER LIFE

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THE STYLE
STAGE p.64

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TOP: FRITZ SCHOLDER, AMERICAN PORTRAIT WITH FLAG, 1979. OIL PAINT ON CANVAS; OVERALL: 40 x 35 IN. COURTESY OF AMERICAN MUSEUM OF WESTERN ART—THE ANSCHUTZ COLLECTION/PHOTO COURTESY WILLIAM J. O'CONNOR © ESTATE OF FRITZ SCHOLDER; HOPI DANCERS, FIRST STATE, 1974. LITHOGRAPH; OVERALL: 22-1/4 x 30 IN. DENVER ART MUSEUM; BEQUEST OF THE ESTATE OF SUZANNE W. JOSHEL, 2009.480 © ESTATE OF FRITZ SCHOLDER

THE ARTS

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

BREAKING THE RULES

Known for facing stereotypes head-on, mixing pop art with figurative methods and his vibrantly colorful brushwork, 20th century artist Fritz Scholder (1937-2005) was no stranger to controversy.

"Scholder claimed he was not an American Indian artist, but he was," John Lukavic, associate curator of Native Arts at the Denver Art Museum, says in a statement. "He claimed his art was not political, but it certainly polarized the art world. For every position he took, he also explored the opposite perspective."

"SUPER INDIAN: FRITZ SCHOLDER, 1967-1980," curated by Lukavic, is now showing at the DAM through January 17, 2016, and features more than 40 rarely seen paintings and lithographs from the artist who once vowed never to paint Indians. The exhibit also includes two portraits of Scholder, whose paternal grandmother was a member of the Luiseño tribe of Mission Indians, by Andy Warhol. For more information, visit denverartmuseum.org.

Top: "American Portrait with Flag"
Left: "Hopi Dancers"



ON OUR RADAR

A NIGHT AT THE OPERA

With a chorus of 40, pageantry and ballet, not to mention Verdi's classic music and a critically acclaimed cast, Opera Colorado's traditional production of **"AIDA"** is sure to be a showstopper. The opera—a love triangle for the ages—runs November 7, 10, 13 and 15 at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House, and is directed by David Gately and conducted by Ari Peltó, Opera Colorado's newly appointed (and first ever) music director. operacolorado.org

CLOTHES CALL

Calling all chick lit and chick flick lovers: It's time for chick theater. **"LOVE, LOSS AND WHAT I WORE,"** a collection of fashion-focused stories based on the book by Ilene Beckerman and adapted by Nora and Delia Ephron (who count credits like "When Harry Met Sally," "Sleepless in Seattle" and "You've Got Mail" among their hit movies), is returning to the Fine Arts Center in Colorado Springs November 12-22. Sold out during its run last fall, the show is a perfect destination for your next girls' night out. Dress code: something you can laugh in. csfineartscenter.org



ART AROUND TOWN

Now through November 15
"Fired Iron, Ceramics and Glass"

The Arvada Center

Three distinct mediums are featured in the center's three galleries—each are unique, but all require the use of fire. Glass runs through December 20. arvadacenter.org / 720.898.7200

Now through November 30
"Candy Coated"

Artwork Network

A curated exhibit of colorful paintings by Rob Reasoner (Houston), Ulla Meyer (Parker) and Valentine Wolly (Washington, D.C.). artworknetwork.com 303.388.7420

Now through February 27, 2016
"Polysemic"

Museum of Outdoor Arts

An exhibit by local artist Joel Swanson featuring work ranging from digital art to sculpture to interactive installation. moaonline.org / 303.806.0444

November 4-29
"The Lion King"

The Buell Theater

Disney's Tony Award-winning musical returns to Denver with stunning visuals and recognizable music. denvercenter.org

November 13-December 27

"Shrek The Musical"

Littleton Town Hall Arts Center

Family-friendly stage performance of the Tony Award-winning fairy tale based on the film. townhallartscenter.org 303.794.2787

November 19-21
"Chasing Shadows"

Paramount Theater

The 66th edition of Warren Miller's annual winter sports film features skiers and snowboarders chasing storms, snow and lines on the world's highest peaks. skinet.com/warrenmiller

December 16
"Jay and Silent Bob Get Old"

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center

An evening with Kevin Smith, director and writer ("Clerks," "Chasing Amy," "Dogma") and actor Jason Mewes. 719.634.5581 csfineartscenter.org

AIDA, VIRGINIA OPERA/DAVID POLSTON; LOVE, LOSS AND WHAT I WORE, JEFF KEARNEY TDC PHOTOGRAPHY

KNOW YOUR ART

PAINTER: JAMES BOHLING

Here, the world is not precisely photographic and landscapes are not necessarily centered. The sky often dominates the canvas, colors are extra vibrant and every slice of scenery looks slightly abstract.

This is the world, through the eyes and fingertips of James Bohling, a Denver artist known for his unusual painted landscapes—although he rarely uses a paintbrush. Instead, he applies thick layers of paint and then works it with palette knives, leaving blurred edges and fields that are etched with jagged lines.

“I don’t have the patience to sit and do fine lines, so I kind of just sweep the paint across to see what happens,” Bohling says. “I know where I’m going, but I don’t always end up in the same place.”

Most of Bohling’s paintings feature landscapes of Colorado and the Great Plains. He says he’s inspired by his grandmother’s home in Nebraska.



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"There's a nostalgic quality that I get from painting a farm or prairie," he says. "People respond that way to it sometimes, too. They say, 'That reminds me of home when I was a kid or of my grandmother's house.'"

Bohling didn't set out to be an artist. He studied petroleum engineering at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden and got a degree in finance at Texas A&M University. Then he worked as a flight attendant for 22 years.

"I was always interested in art—it was one of my favorite subjects in school—but I never thought I could do it," he says.

He painted occasionally for himself and hung his work in his house. Then, five years ago, a friend saw Bohling's art and encouraged him to sell it at a summer art market. It went so well that Bohling, who also paints non-landscape abstracts, ended up enrolling in art classes and quitting his job to paint full time.

"I can express myself in a way I never could before, and there's a lot of satisfaction in starting with a blank canvas and ending up with something that I find beautiful and other people find beautiful," he says. "I have never done anything that makes me as happy as painting does."



See James Bohling's work at Sync Gallery, 931 Santa Fe Drive, and Main Street Fine Arts Gallery in Evergreen. jamesbohling.com