

# The Female Perspective

**M**arch 8 through April 7, Manitou Galleries presents the four-artist exhibition *Women on the Wall*, which celebrates the careers of **Gene Kloss** (1903-1996), **PJ Garoutte**, **Martha Goetz** and **Martha Pettigrew**. The show will include sculptures, paintings and etchings to highlight the diversity of the artists' works and how their careers have been shaped over the years.

In 1963 Garoutte moved to New Mexico and has found her muse in the desert landscape, such as in *Starlight* and *On a Clear Night*, which both depict the mountains, adobes and fauna that characterize the region.

"Recently my career as a painting artist has taken a new and exciting direction. In the studio one day, I picked up a small painting that didn't quite make it and thought 'I think I can do something with this image.' Next thing I knew I had a small palette knife in my hand applying oil paint on top of the painting,

covering some parts and skipping over other areas with new excitement," the artist explains. "I contemplate beforehand in my mind's eye the painting I'm planning to create. I had spent my lifetime looking and seeing composition in everything around me. The most important element in painting, I am enjoying this new phase of my life's story. The paintings seem to flow off my favorite brush or palette knife. The painting takes on a life of its own. I am totally here for this new journey in my life."

Pettigrew's sculpture is inspired by the everyday tasks of the people in the Southwest, as seen in her works *Flora* and *The Source*. "If I have achieved my goal as a sculptor the viewer will feel an emotional attachment and never tire of seeing the piece," she shares. "The sculpture may become a source of inspiration in their lives."

For the show, Goetz will present a number of land-

**1**  
**Martha Goetz, *King of the Hill*, oil on panel, 12 x 12"**

**2**  
**PJ Garoutte, *Starlight*, oil on canvas, 8 x 8"**

**3**  
**Gene Kloss (1903-1996), *Deer Dance*, etching, ed. 45 of 75, 13 x 18"**

**4**  
**PJ Garoutte, *On a Clear Night*, oil on canvas, 8 x 8"**





4

scape paintings that focus on trees, such as *King of the Hill*. She is particularly drawn to the meaning of the exhibition and bringing women artists to the forefront of the art world. Goetz says she first became aware of the perception of women's artistic abilities as a teenager when the painting she submitted to the *Young Talent in Oklahoma* competition won an award. "At the exhibition, a few comments stuck in mind, because I was told that it didn't look like something a girl would paint. That

award from the competition qualified me for a place as a student in the Summer Arts Institute in Oklahoma," she says.

"During the summer session, a few students, including myself were given the opportunity to interview guest artists and ask them questions during the filming of a documentary, which I believe aired on PBS in the early 1980s," Goetz continues. "I will never forget the answer that Fritz Scholder gave to the question I asked him...How does a woman make it in the art

world?" He said, 'By making art.' The older I get, the more I appreciate his answer. In the end, the work should speak for itself and for the artist. If it communicates truthfully, it should transcend sex, race and any other consideration. I'm still trying to live up to his advice."

*Women on the Wall* will open with a reception on March 8 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. ●

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