

WILLIAM HAVU GALLERY

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News from William Havu Gallery

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CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE: THE TWENTY YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF WILLIAM HAVU GALLERY IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE, DENVER, CO

DENVER, CO - July 5, 2018

In September 2018 William Havu Gallery (WHG) will celebrate a milestone in the Denver art community. Gallery owner William Havu has been in the fine art business for 45 years in Colorado with 20 years in The Golden Triangle. His contribution to the arts in Colorado is incalculable. With an impeccable eye for quality, he has succeeded not only at creating a thriving business but has done so largely by promoting Colorado and regional artists.

In September 1973 Havu purchased the Aspen Frame Shop in Aspen, Colorado which quickly led to opening his first gallery, Gallery 400 also located in Aspen. In late 1977 HMK Fine Art which was based in NYC approached Havu to be a sales representative. HMK Fine Art was owned by Hugh McKay and was at one point the largest publisher of fine art edition prints in the US - silk screens, lithographs and etchings of America's and Europe's most outstanding printmakers including Andy Warhol. Havu worked for HMK Fine Art until 1982 during which time he closed Gallery 400 and eventually moved to Denver, Colorado.

In 1982 Havu opened Art Group Partners (AGP), a publishing company similar to HMK and primarily sold monoprints. Monoprints were more attractive to collectors after the historical Dali signature fiasco when the artist was selling signed blank paper. AGP worked with printmakers including Tony Ortega, Sam Scott and Ron Trujillo – many printing with Bud Shark at Shark's Ink. He also added painters to his showroom - Jeffrey Keith, Tony Ortega and Jeremy Hillhouse among others. The showroom was



William Havu Gallery
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located above the original Robischon Gallery at 17th and Park Avenue. In 1986 Bill moved the showroom and renamed it, William Havu Fine Art, to a building on Brighton Blvd which no longer exists. His neighbors included Sandy Carson Gallery (the beginnings of McGrath & Braun that spawned Nine Dot Arts) and Nina's Framing.

In 1991 Havu opened 1/1 Gallery (named for how monoprints are signed) in LoDo across from Robischon Galley on Wazee Street. 1/1 Gallery exhibits included solo shows of Ralph Steadman and Kurt Vonnegut among others. A neighborhood of old storefronts, warehouses and homelessness, it was difficult to attract an audience in the early years in LoDo. But with inexpensive rents and the assistance of Dana Crawford, John Hickenlooper, Joyce Meskis and the inclusion of Metro's Center for the Visual Arts, LoDo soon became a mecca for art galleries and art followers. Robin Rule Gallery, Sandy Carson Gallery and many other important galleries moved to LoDo. The city's ever popular First Fridays were started by Havu and Robischon and Wazee Street would close as a result of the crowds. But with the arrival of the new baseball stadium and quickly rising rents many businesses were forced to close or relocate.

While riding his bike thru what now is known as the Golden Triangle Creative District Bill saw a sign for a development project at 1040 Cherokee Street. William Havu Gallery opened in September 1998. A post-modern building, designed by Joe Poli of Humphries Poli Architects of Denver, was the first in Denver to be built specifically for a contemporary gallery and has won 3 AIA awards. Among the regional and nationally recognized artists who exhibit at WHG are Emilio Lobato, Tracy Felix, Sushe Felix, Amy Métier, Sam Scott, Zachariah Rieke, John Gibson, Eugene Newmann and Hank Saxe to name a few of the 70 plus artists the gallery represents.

Nick Ryan, WHG Gallery Administrator, states, "We've been fortunate to work with many of the region's top artists while continuing to grow and strengthen our roster. The strong relationships we have cultivated with our artists, our clients and the greater arts community have been very rewarding."

The gallery's 20th year anniversary will be marked by a retrospective of the work of Emilio Lobato on view September 21 - November, 10, 2018. Lobato's representation with the gallery goes back to the mid 1990's when it was 1/1 Gallery on Wazee Street, but the first show of his work was the inaugural exhibition at William Havu Gallery in 1998. Over the past twenty years, WHG has presented over ten solo exhibits for Lobato, and included his work in numerous two-person and group exhibits. In 2011 The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center presented Lobato's work in a solo show titled, "Mi Linda Soledad". Lobato is not only an important part of the gallery's history, but he has made a significant contribution to Colorado's art as well. It's only fitting that on the 20th Anniversary of William Havu Gallery it presents a 20 Year Retrospective of Emilio Lobato's work.



Emilio Lobato, *Otoño en Nueva York*, collage and oil on panel, 48 x 48 in.

Media Resources:

Gallery Page: www.williamhavugallery.com

Online News: www.williamhavugallery.com/news

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For more on Emilio Lobato: www.williamhavugallery.com/category/emilio-lobato