

Walking the Line: Contemporary Landscapes by Steve Elmore Opens in June

The opening of *Walking the Line: Contemporary Landscapes by Steve Elmore*, a show of new work by Santa Fe oil painter Steve Elmore, will begin Friday, June 16th from 5-7 p.m. The evening will feature the artwork and conversation with one of Santa Fe's most radical artists. Elmore Contemporary Gallery is located at 839 Paseo De Peralta with free parking in the back. Refreshments will be served.

In his new oil painting exhibition, Steve Elmore again presents a bold selection of personal landscapes of the Southwest that express his life as a contemporary artist. "These images continue my creative process began when I returned to New Mexico in 1999 and began painting," stated Steve recently. "I have worked on most of these paintings for several years now, and am glad to share them. I hope my work inspires other artists to work from their interior lives and explore new ways of expressing themselves."

Steve Elmore's show "*Walking the Line*" was curated with the help of local art historian David Rasch who choose most of the selections. David calls the paintings "psychological thrillers" for their suspense and tension. Steve "has turned the predictable Southwestern landscape into his own metaphysical playground... He plays with the boundaries between his own interior states and the natural world around him."

Max Walukas, the gallery's director, commented on Steve's new work: "The deserts and mountains of the Southwest collide with a fertile imagination in these colorful, often hallucinatory images which blur the lines between naturalism and surrealism. The paintings are decidedly expressionistic."



Artist Walks the Line I, 16x20.

Steve develops a sense of place – both physically and psychically – that reflect his obsession with the state of his birth and his twenty years on the Santa Fe art scene. "I am proud to create new images of my native New Mexico," concurred Steve.

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In two smaller paintings, Elmore depicts the Santa Fe artist as literally walking a tightrope over local Diablo Canyon, yet in each composition, the high-wire is twisted and curved suggesting the impossibility of the task before the contemporary artist. Other compositions show strange future cityscapes mixed with desert and open skies in a manner that both intrigues and haunts the viewer.

One canvas, "Taos Gorge" is dedicated to John de Puy, the Taos modernist who lives above Ojo Caliente. Another canvas, "26 Blackbirds" honors the poet Wallace Steven's poem of the same title. "Expressing this inner/outer conflict in paint and trying to keep it balanced is my process for creating. I release tension into the paintings and experience relief from that process. The blending of the colors is essential for balance to me. I am not painting from my intellect. I don't necessarily understand the paintings. I experience them as I create them. They are like puzzles which demand assemblage."

Walking the Line: Contemporary Landscapes by Steve Elmore will be on display at Elmore Contemporary through September first. The exhibition consists of fifteen new oil paintings.



Train, 16x20.