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## Artworks from "Desert Divinity" Exhibit

Kevin J. Comerford

*University of New Mexico - Main Campus*

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South Broadway Cultural Center Presents:

# Night of the Arts - Desert Divinity

AT SOUTH BROADWAY CULTURAL CENTER

APRIL 12, 2018 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

## Night of the Arts at South Broadway Cultural Center Opens With New Exhibition, Desert Divinity

*Desert Divinity features the work of four artists; evening to include live music*

**A Night of the Arts**, a celebration of art, music, and film, at South Broadway Cultural Center will feature the work of four artists who explore their own pendulum of compositional reason and method. An opening art reception will take place on **Thursday, April 12 from 5-8 p.m.** The exhibit runs through May 31.

Desert Divinity, curated by Augustine Romero, will showcase the work of Kevin Comerford, Julie Reichert, Gabriel Luis Powers, and Richard Hazel. "Each artist brings in a sense of transcendentalist ideals of self-reliance and idealism as they explore nonobjective art," Romero said. "The studio becomes an environment of independence. The collective sense of discovering something new through individual exploration as mediums become reflections of light, tension, and models of the new."

For Comerford, traditional architectural forms from the Southwest are the source of inspiration for his current series of works. He finds certain shapes in architecture intriguing because they imply the human form and the human presence without expressly describing it.

"So while my work is essentially about the human environment, there is a visual tension in my compositions that pulls between the optimism of the human presence and a sense of loneliness that attends a pictorial environment that omits the human form," Comerford explains.

In 2000, a friend of Reichert invited her to make homemade paper with him. She hasn't stopped.

"The first time I put my hands into a vat of pulp I felt completely happy," Reichert said. "For the next twelve years, I made paper in my backyard every summer using various plants and quasi-prepared fibers I purchased from a supply house." In her current series, Circles, Reichert explains that each piece plays with the tensions among circle and lines, color and light. Each element seems to have its own agenda, all cohering in ways both intended and unintended.

Powers is in constant exploration of new ways of accomplishing things.

"As an evolving human in an ever-evolving world it's natural and advantageous to adjust to situations that change or are entirely new," Powers said. "I like my work to adhere to this model by presenting new things I've learned while working in my studio."

Hazel studied sculpture at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, N.Y. His experience as a builder and woodworker has influenced his choice of materials.

"Building taught me the beauty of structure, and wood contains the inspiration of organic material and form," Hazel explains. "These two qualities have informed my

work for over three decades."

Hazel has shown his work in New York City, Brooklyn, and East Hampton, N.Y. He has lived in New Mexico since 2003. He lives and works outside Santa Fe.

**Son of Hwéeldi** will perform their rich sounds of rock, soul, blues and a touch of world beat from **6-7:30 p.m.**

**Following the music will be a screening of Loving Vincent 8pm (2017).** Loving Vincent is an animated biographical drama film about the life of painter Vincent van Gogh, and in particular, the circumstances of his death. It is the first fully painted animated feature film. The film, written and directed by Dorota Kobiela and Hugh Welchman, is a Polish production, funded by the Polish Film Institute, and partially through a Kickstarter campaign. First conceived as a seven minute short movie in 2008, Loving Vincent was idealized by Dorota Kobiela, a painter herself, after studying the techniques and the artist's story through his letters.

**Admission to Night of the Arts is free.**