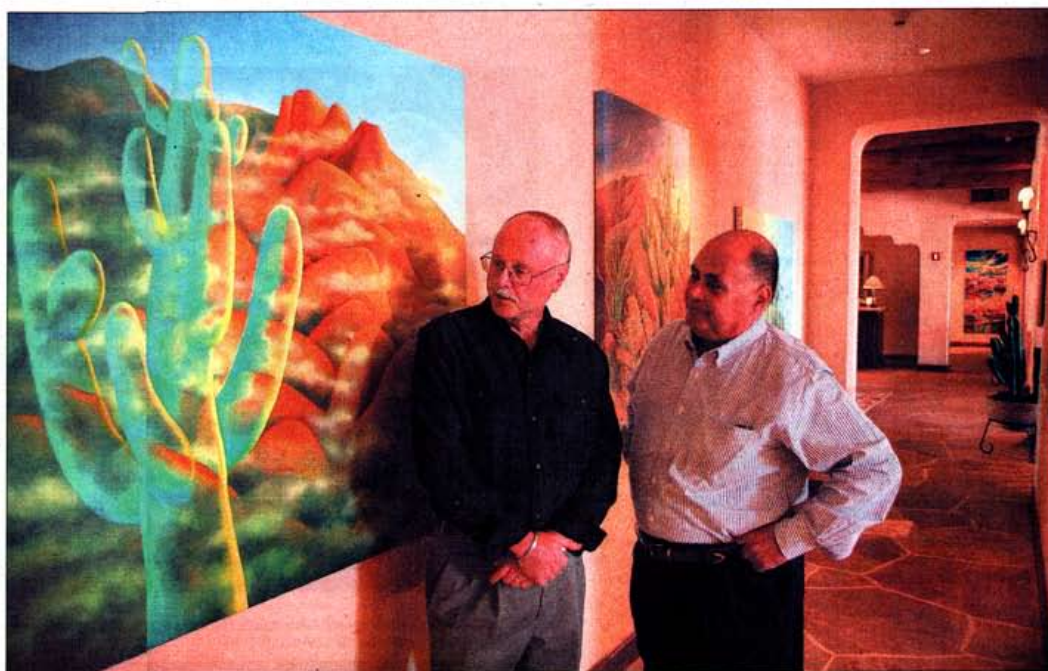




SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2007



PAUL O'NEILL, TRIBUNE

**ART TALK:** Artist John Geryak, left, discusses the surreal effect of his paintings with artist-in-residence Peter Roybal at the Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North.

# ART checks in

## Four Seasons resort hosts art of the American Southwest

By JULIE JANOVSKY • TRIBUNE

The Indian warrior's gaze, with its piercing amber-colored eyes, is an unexpected encounter at the posh Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North.

So are the other paintings, which include saguaros, and a life-size bronze horse sculpture that stands near the resort's entrance.

"There is a history of storytelling throughout the Southwest and American West. We bring that to bear with an extraordinary collection of art by the best established and emerging artists in the country," says Karlynn Keyes of the Trail of Painted Ponies, an arts merchandise and events company in Carefree that partnered with the resort to open an art gallery on its grounds.

Pieces in the exhibit, which opened in May, range in price from \$900 to \$125,000.

The American West means different things to different people, says Keyes, even among the artists featured in the collection.



FOUR SEASONS RESORT SCOTTSDALE AT TROON NORTH

**SYMBOLIC:** Buddy Tubinaghtewa's "Musical Prayers" uses Hopi symbolism to share the story of his ancestors' spirituality.

### If you go

The free Western art exhibition is spread through the Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North, 10600 E. Crescent Moon Drive.

**Information:**  
(480) 515-5700.

The resort will host a monthly series of wine dinners with a featured artist starting Jan. 24 with John Geryak. The \$95 cost includes reception, wine and dinner.

**Information:**  
(480) 513-5085.

# ART: Artist and guests can interact

FROM PAGE D1

## TIMELESS BEAUTY

Landscape painter John Geryak is proof that you don't have to hail from the Southwest to appreciate the region's beauty.

"Coming from back East, this was all new to me," says the former New Yorker, who moved to Scottsdale a little over a decade ago and now lives in Peoria.

"I didn't have any intent on painting things literally," says Geryak, whose paintings typically depict saguaros from a sculptural point of view. "I see shapes and put it together." The final result reduces the desert environment to its essence, he says.

"I try to approach it differently so it feels timeless. I want people to enjoy the painting many years later."

His paintings caught Keyes' eye about two years ago, so when it came to seeking artists to showcase for the Four Seasons gallery debut, Geryak was high on her list.

"No one captures the American Southwest the way he does," says Keyes, who describes Geryak as an "emerging American treasure."

## MESSAGES BETWEEN TWO WORLDS

"I think a lot of people naturally get the spiritual part of my paintings, the spiritual part of my people, the Hopi people," says carver and artist Buddy Tubinaghtewa. His work "depicts the symbols and signs and the roles they play," with sacred meanings behind each brush stroke.

Tubinaghtewa's paintings are being snapped up by collectors across the country; in fact, his "Corn Maidens" painting was the first work to sell when the Four Seasons gallery



**ON HAND:** Artist-in-residence Peter Roybal, below, shows his handcrafted jewelry to a visitor at the resort. All pieces in the exhibit are for sale.

**"I try to approach it differently so it feels timeless. I want people to enjoy the painting many years later."**

**JOHN GERYAK**  
LANDSCAPE PAINTER

opened.

Not a bad showing, considering Tubinaghtewa, a carver since he was a boy, only started painting professionally two years ago.

"All my life I have been carving. Painting and glass etching came later," he says. He previously created paintings only as gifts for family and friends, but at his brother's suggestion he brought some paintings to an art show. "The paintings started outselling my carvings," he says.

Tubinaghtewa says he wants resort visitors to appreciate the spiritual side of the Hopi people through his work.

"We have a strong faith in more or less the unknown, the spiritual world," says the Phoenix resident. "These paintings that I do are the messengers



**LIVING GALLERY:** The exhibit's Western-inspired art adorns the walls of Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North.

PHOTOS BY PAUL O'NEILL, TRIBUNE

that are carrying our prayers from this physical world to the spiritual world."

## THE INTERMEDIARY

As artist-in-residence, Peter Roybal spends a few days a week at the Four Seasons playing host to guests and art collectors, telling them the stories behind the artists and their art. Some pieces are, of course, his own creations.

The Tewa silversmith and master bow-maker has been handcrafting art, including intricately crafted silver jewelry, for more than three decades. A table in the lobby displays an assortment of his silver belt

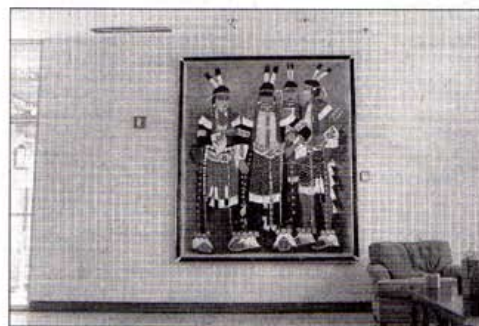
buckles, necklaces and pins.

"My approach is simplicity; not a lot of color," says Roybal, who learned his trade from his uncles as a boy growing up in New Mexico.

Roybal, a Phoenix resident, says one of the best parts about being an artist-in-residence is interacting with the resort's guests.

"I get sincere comments from the visitors on the works they see. Some will say they never saw anything like it."

**CONTACT WRITER:**  
(480) 898-6575  
or jjanovsky@aztrib.com



**VIVID SCENE:** A painting by Kevin Red Star titled "Dancers" hangs in a hallway at the Four Seasons Resort as part of the gallery showing.