

Film
Theater
Music
Dining
Fun

FRIDAY

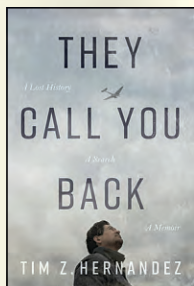
Friday, October 11, 2024

**BOULDER COUNTY
ARTISTS PREP TO OPEN
STUDIOS TO PUBLIC** PAGE 4



A BLENDING OF STYLES

Boulder Philharmonic ready to SHIFT gears, let its collective hair down in Lyons ⁸

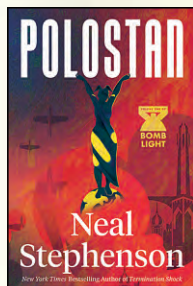


TIM Z. HERNANDEZ
Thursday, October 17th at
6:30pm

Tim Z. Hernandez has been searching for people his whole life. In *They Call You Back*, his highly anticipated memoir, he takes us along on an investigative odyssey through personal and collective history to uncover the surprising conjunctions that bind our stories together.

Tickets to attend: \$5, purchase at HernandezBBS.eventbrite.com

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NEAL STEPHENSON
Friday, October 18th at 6:30pm at
First Congregational Church

Set against the turbulent decades of the early twentieth century, *Polostan* is an inventive, richly detailed, and deeply entertaining historical epic, and the start of a captivating new series from Neal Stephenson.

Tickets to attend: \$32, purchase at StephensonBBS.eventbrite.com

Visit boulderbookstore.com
for a complete listing
of this week's events.

Open Studios

125 artists welcome guests into their private studios

By Ella Cobb

ecobb
@prairiemountainmedia.com

We all remember that one special day of the school year when, as children, we got to skip school and follow our moms or dads into the office, finally discovering what they did all day while we were busy learning cursive and raising mealworms.

"Take Your Child to Work Day" was the perfect peek into our parents' professional lives, giving us a chance to see firsthand how they spent their time. The hope was that we'd leave feeling inspired to pursue

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OPEN STUDIOS — COURTESY PHOTO

Artist Allyson McDuffie in her Studio in Boulder's NoBo Art District. She can be found this year at Studio #24, 4725 16th Street, #104, Boulder.

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Artists

FROM PAGE 4

a career in finance or computer science. But, in reality, most of us walked away with nothing more than a fistful of stolen Post-its and a couple of photocopied prints of our butt cheeks.

Had our parents been artists, maybe we would have been a bit more inspired. For those of us whose parents had, let's say, less-than-glamorous jobs, Open Studios is the perfect way to relive those glory days of "Take Your Child to Work Day" — only this time around, your parents are cool artists with aesthetically pleasing studios rather than cubicles.

The Open Studios Tour, which continues this weekend and next weekend, is a self-guided tour that allows art lovers and curious visitors to explore the working spaces of a diverse range of artists across various mediums, including painting, sculpture, ceramics, photography and more. This year, more than 125 local artists will be opening their studios to the public, offering a behind-the-scenes look at their creative processes and artistic "offices."

From learning how Lafayette-based artist Chuck Ciceros creates his vibrant impressionistic landscapes, to seeing how Ashton Lacy Jones meticulously layers photography, painting, and printmaking to make a finished masterpiece in her Longmont studio, each tour offers a unique glimpse into the diverse artistic processes across Boulder County.

Open Studios was once limited to Boulder-based studios, but last year the tour expanded to include locations throughout the county. According to Open Studios Executive Director Mary Horrocks, the decision to go county-wide wasn't simply about enlarging the event. It was about

supporting local artists in the places where they live and create.

According to Horrocks, "More and more, unfortunately, because of the cost of living and the rising cost of property, artists are moving out of Boulder and into surrounding towns." By including locations across the county, the tour ensures that every artist, no matter where they are, can be part of this long-standing event.

"We have three artists

who have been on the studio tour and lived in Boulder, who were doing studio tours from their homes, who in the last year have moved to Longmont," Horrocks said.

While expanding the tour was beneficial for participating artists, it also has proved beneficial for art lovers who might not feel like driving to Boulder to see local art.

"I've heard from many people visiting studios in

the eastern part of the county who said, 'We're so glad Open Studios expanded the tour because we don't want to deal with the traffic going into Boulder.' It really met the needs of those attendees, and they were excited to discover and connect with artists right in their own neighborhoods," Horrocks said.

Those who do feel like making the journey to Boulder, however, can pop by the official Open Stu-

dios Preview Exhibit at the Dairy Arts Center. Like a tasting menu for your eyes, this special exhibit features one piece of art from every artist participating in the Open Studios Tour, allowing guests a chance to get a sneak peek of each artists' work, find pieces that resonate with them, and easily find where the artists will be located on the tour. Each artwork has a QR code that links directly to the artist's

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in October
Noon to 5 Daily:

October 5-6 | 12-13 | 19-20

■ **TOUR PREVIEW EXHIBIT**
at the Dairy Arts Center
2590 Walnut St, Boulder

■ **Reception: Sept. 27th 5-8pm**
Exhibit open daily 2-6pm Sept 27 – Oct 20

Guidebook available online and in print. Details at: openstudios.org



Art Shown: "Floating Orbs 4" by Ryan Wiese

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Hart

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and what role this genre plays in contemporary literature?

A » Over the past decade, climate change has increasingly taken center stage in my writing, simply because it's become an unavoidable presence in the world. Take Hurricane Helene, for example. It was an incredibly devastating event, and much of that devastation was driven by the realities of climate change. We're seeing these weather events and natural catastrophes become more extreme and more frequent.

At some point, I believe climate change will be the predominant topic in literature because it's becoming such an integral part of our lives.

Since I left Boulder nearly 50 years ago, the world has lost 70 percent of its wildlife, and millions of species are now on the brink of extinction. It's nearly impossible not to have these thoughts constantly in mind. Climate change affects everything, and it's becoming increasingly difficult to ignore its influence in both life and literature.

Q » You've mentioned the importance of connecting science and the arts. Can you tell us more about your experience as a writer in scientific institutions and how that has influenced your work, particularly with Arroyo Circle?

A » I had the opportunity to be a resident at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, one of the leading research institutions in molecular biology and genetics. It's the same institution where James D. Watson, along with Francis Crick and Maurice Wilkins, won the Nobel Prize for discovering the double helix structure of DNA in 1962.

Institutions like these often invite artists and writers to participate in residencies, with the goal of

helping to translate complex scientific research into something more accessible to the broader public. While I was there, I began drafting a short story, which I later presented at an art and science festival about six months after the residency.

That experience really solidified my deep connection to and love for science. I truly believe that while science has played a role in many of the environmental challenges we face today, it also holds the key to solving them. But we can't rely on science alone — it requires everyone's involvement. And that's where artists come in. Writers and creatives have the unique ability to interpret and communicate scientific discoveries in ways that resonate with people emotionally, making the data and research more relatable and easier to understand. That connection between science and art has always been a driving force in my work, especially in Arroyo Circle.

Q » You've mentioned your interest in quantum physics. How did that interest influence the themes and ideas in Arroyo Circle, and what drew you to explore these complex concepts in your writing?

A » I've always been deeply fascinated by quantum physics. While writing Arroyo Circle, I would often find myself falling down these endless rabbit holes of research, and honestly, quantum physics is the biggest rabbit hole of them all. Even quantum physicists themselves often say that the more you know, the less you understand. In many ways, quantum physics feels like the closest thing we have to a true understanding of the universe — it's almost god-like in its complexity.

It's mind-boggling to think that matter, as we perceive it, isn't truly solid — that we're all just moving particles of energy and

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page on the Open Studios website, providing details about where to visit their studio.

Another fabulous feature of this year's Open Studios tour is the inclusion of a stunning, glossy, fully-colored guidebook that acts as a map and memento for tourgoers, and as a reference sheet for those who can't make the tour.

"Our guidebook is designed for people who want to really dive into the tour and discover art they love. It's a beautifully produced, full-color book on glossy paper that you'll want to keep. Each artist's email is included, so even if you can't attend during the tour weekend, you can contact them directly to schedule a private visit and see their work on your own time," Horrocks said.

The guidebook also highlights parts of the tour that are wheelchair accessible as well as kid-friendly. For Horrocks, making sure that the tour was inclusive was a top priority this year.

"We also prioritize accessibility to ensure everyone has a positive experience. For those with mobility challenges, we indicate accessible locations in the guidebook so no one feels left out or stuck waiting in a vehicle while others explore. Families are encouraged to bring kids, as many artists create activities for children, making the tour a fun, enriching experience for all ages. This helps keep kids engaged while parents browse or speak with artists about a class or a spe-

cial piece of art for their home," Horrocks said.

She continued, "It's all about fostering a love for art early on. I personally came to visual art later in life, and I wish I had discovered it as a child — it's so important to encourage creativity from a young age."

So hop in the car and head to Boulder — or Longmont, or Lafayette, or Louisville — and see your new favorite artist doin' their thang in the studio. Open Studios Tour runs Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 12, 13, 19, and 20, from noon to 5 p.m. each day. For more information, visit <https://www.openstudios.org/openstudios-tour>.

Hart

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atoms. Quantum physics is essentially our attempt to understand the universe, but the deeper you dive, the more you realize how incomprehensible it really is. Yet, there's a profound beauty in that mystery. The more you explore it, the more you come to see that everything is interconnected. We are all part of this vast, unified whole.

Q » Can you tell us about your journey into writing? Was it something you always wanted to do, or did you come to it later in life?

A » I was rather late in writing. I dropped out of Skidmore College after one year, moved to Stamford, had a bad relationship and moved to Boulder, and then met my husband. It wasn't until my children were young that I realized I'd have a hard time convincing them of the importance of education if I hadn't finished college myself.

That realization pushed me to enroll in night classes at Harvard Extension. As part of the curriculum, I took two expository writing courses, and it was during one of those that everything changed. At that point, I was in my late 30s, and after reading my work,

the professor called me into her office and asked, "How long have you been a writer?" I looked at my watch and replied, "Since I've been in this class." She told me, "You are a writer," and handed me a stack of books that ended up steering the course of my writing life. We've remained close ever since.

I wrote my first novel in my 40s. I was certainly a late bloomer when it came to writing, especially compared to many of my peers who knew they wanted to be writers since kindergarten. But for me, the discovery came a little later, and I'm grateful for that journey.

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