

National art show 'A Mountain Holiday' comes to town
- Women Artists of the West represent 34 states
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Gwen Pentecost, owner of Joyous Lake Gallery, unpacks a sculpture by Carla Moss from the pile of boxes pouring in for the "A Mountain Holiday" show in Pinetop-Lakeside.

PINETOP-LAKESIDE - Fresh from a major art show at the Hilligoss Galleries in Chicago, Women Artists of the West will open a month-long show of small works at the Joyous Lake Gallery in Pinetop-Lakeside.

Entitled "A Mountain Holiday," this national organization provides an opportunity for 47 artists to show 87 paintings and sculptures in the White Mountains. The show opens Dec. 1, with opening receptions taking place on Friday, Dec. 7, from 5-9 p.m., and Saturday, 2-5 p.m. at Joyous Lake Gallery.

Gwen Pentecost, owner of Joyous Lake Gallery, explained the timing. "This show focuses on smaller works, with prices correspondingly lower for the gift-giving season. The work I'm getting in - boxes and boxes every day - features fabulous artwork. Every day is like Christmas as I open those boxes. And you won't believe how good the sculpture is, Yvonne Kitchen's bronze Horse Madonna series is exquisite," she said.

A 38-year-old organization, Women Artists of the West represents 193 women from 34 different states across the country. Most of the members are in the western part of the country, and many of the artists paint and sculpt western subject matter. These women often "walk the talk" by living on the ranches and portraying the lives they lead.

Some of the artists are Native Americans, and again, portray the lives they are familiar with. All traditional media are represented: oil painting, watercolor, acrylic, mixed media and sculpture.

Joyous Lake Gallery is located at 1869 E. White Mountain Blvd. in Pinetop-Lakeside, a half block east of Charlie Clark's Steak House on state Route 260. Normal open hours are Wednesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. year around.

"A Mountain Holiday" will be on display from Dec. 1 through Dec. 31. The show is also online at www.joyouslakegallery.com.