

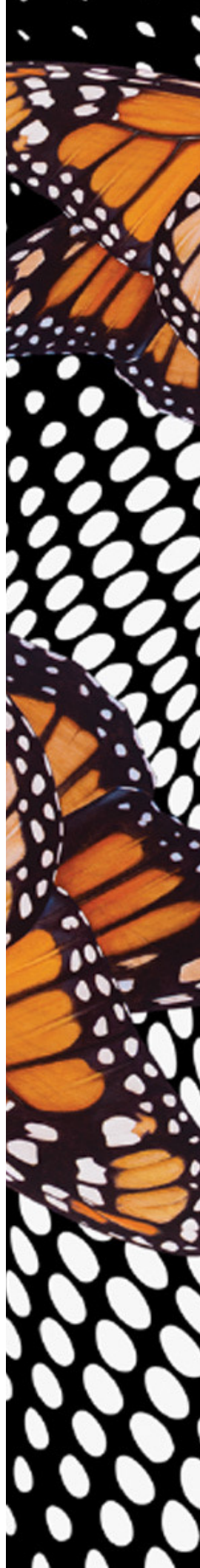


Renowned Western Painters Elizabeth Robbins and Shanna Kunz Join The Monarch Creative Studios

Ogden, UT (February 12, 2019): The Monarch, Ogden's future epicenter for creative connection, is excited to welcome award-winning oil painters Elizabeth Robbins and Shanna Kunz into its creative studios this spring. The former owners of the beloved Bella Muse Gallery, which closed its doors after five years on Ogden's Historic 25th Street just this December, are based in Ogden but have exhibited their work in art markets throughout the west including Park City, Bozeman, Sun Valley and more. The Monarch is thrilled to have such renowned painters energize its collaborative studio space where, beginning this spring, 25 to 30 artists and creative businesses will connect, inspire and create together in the city's new Nine Rails Creative District.

Robbins' infatuation with flowers characterize her classically beautiful still life paintings, while Kunz' connection to the outdoors informs her emotive landscapes. Once open, The Monarch plans to host Open Studio nights on First Fridays where the public is encouraged to interact with the artists as they work. Kunz and Robbins also plan to continue the workshops and demo days they hosted at Bella Muse Gallery at their Monarch studios. More about their story and their work can be found on The Monarch's blog page at www.themonarchogden.com/news.

Opening spring 2019 in Ogden, Utah, The Monarch is a collaborative environment where artists, creative businesses and makers of all types can connect, inspire and create together. The creative epicenter offers over 25 studio memberships in our one of a kind historic structure, which also encompasses two restaurants, multiple event venues and curated exhibition space. Studio memberships are currently available for local and regional artists and creative businesses.



Elizabeth Robbins

Elizabeth Robbins lives among the flowers she paints. Her backyard garden has over 80 rosebushes, at least a dozen peonies, dahlias, delphiniums, fruit trees, grape vines and more. As the season allows, Robbins spends at least two hours in her garden every morning before she begins to paint. “I planted them, watered them, pruned them and weeded them,” says Robbins of her paintings’ floral subjects. “The love I have for my subject matter transfers to the canvas.”

Robbins’ personal connection with flowers and gardening began when she was just a little girl, helping her grandmothers identify flowers and prune rosebushes near their cabin in Oakley, Utah. In addition to flowers Robbins works in portraiture and western motifs including Native American people and artifacts.

Robbins has received numerous awards including "Best Still Life" and "Best of Show" at the National Oil and Acrylic Painter's Exhibit and the "Tuffy Berg Award" at the 2008 CM Russell auction. She is represented by seven galleries, which can be found on her website.

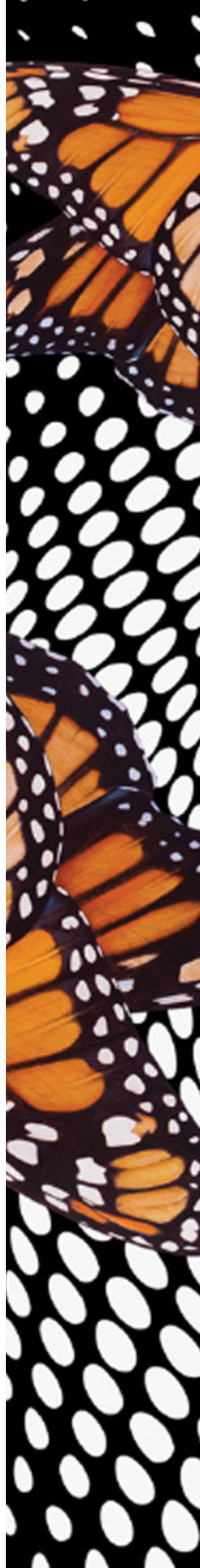
Shanna Kunz

Whether it’s a past memory, emotional experience or sentimental feeling, Shanna Kunz has a personal relationship with every landscape she paints. Rather than replicate what she sees with precise realism, Kunz paints the essence of a place through temperate palettes, blurred forms and visual brushstrokes. Her beginnings as a portrait painter translate into her landscapes as she aims to reveal the soul or spirit of her subject matter.

Raised and rooted in the west, Kunz has a fondness for the outdoors that shows through her work. “My dad used to pack all the kids up into the back of his old Chev and drive up Weber Canyon to Christmas Meadows and go camping there,” she says. “It gave me an affinity to the landscape that came out later in my paintings.”

Kunz has been featured in Western Art & Architecture Magazine, Southwest Art Magazine, Western Art Collector and more. She is represented by six galleries, which can be found on her website.

- Kelly Carper, Art Writer



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Relevant Links:

The Monarch

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Nine Rails Creative District

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