



A partial view of Quimera gallery showing works by Hillary Riggs, Michael Meyer, and Mark Nohl

GALLERY SPOTLIGHT

QUIMERA GALLERY AT COLLABORATION

*A showcase for exceptional works by three artists:
one-of-a-kind furniture, sculpture, screens,
and wall pieces by Hillary Riggs...
soft-painting fabric art by Michael Meyer...
and New Mexico landscape photography by Mark Nohl.*

By Gussie Fauntleroy

In a serene space with angled white walls and a tall, spacious ceiling, three Santa Fe artists have found an ideal setting for their highly individual, yet complementary expressions.

The space is Quimera Gallery at Collaboration, a suite of rooms within the Collaboration furniture showroom on

South Guadalupe Street. Set apart from the showroom, Quimera Gallery was opened in November 1999 by artist Hillary Riggs, whose one-of-a-kind carved and painted furniture is featured in the showroom.

After creating furniture in Santa Fe for more than 20 years, Riggs realized a few years ago that her impulse and interests

were moving more and more toward fine art. In Quimera Gallery, her elegant sculpture, screens, and wall pieces share the space with exquisite "soft painting" fabric art by Michael Meyer, and the striking New Mexico landscape photography of Mark Nohl.

The three artists, Riggs believes, are mov-



"Stardust," mirror by Hillary Riggs reflecting Mark Nohl photograph

"The Winds of Change," mirror by Hillary Riggs reflecting Mark Nohl photograph



PHOTOS BY MARK NOHL

ing on parallel paths toward a clearer, more thoughtful artistic expression, and none shies away from the time, commitment, and care required to find that expression.

"Michael is an extraordinary woman and artist. She has a great sense of purpose and meaning, and she's attempting very hard to communicate at deeper levels," Riggs observes. "What I love about Mark is that he has such an intimate knowledge of the environment, of New Mexico. We inevitably reflect the environment we live in; we can't separate how we think from where we are."

For her part, Riggs for many years found satisfaction in creating beautiful, functional

furniture that would fulfill its purpose through its use. At the same time, she was reading extensively in such areas as physics, chaos theory, anthropology, myth, cultural patterns, and art from around the world. Eventually these strongly held interests began to demand that her own art be more deeply rooted in meaning.

"This is why I've created a gallery. Within the space, I feel, my mind and others' will express themselves along these lines, this theme of meaning," she explains.

The confluence of purpose among the three artists became clear when they hung their first show last fall. They had not dis-

cussed what they would bring, yet when they finished hanging the show they discovered there were exactly the right number of pieces to fill the space perfectly. Even the colors in each artist's work complement the others.

"To me, the idea of the inner space is important," Riggs reflects. "Together, our work expresses the inner and outer landscape."

Quimera Gallery at Collaboration is located at 544 South Guadalupe Street. Hours: 10:00-5:00 Monday-Saturday. (505) 984-3045.