

For Immediate Release

Morgan Arts Council – Berkeley Springs, WV

304-258-2300 – macicehouse.org

Press contact and Photos: Tricia Strader, tricia.strader@yahoo.com or 304-596-7076

ICE HOUSE HEADS WEST FOR NEW EXHIBIT

BERKELEY SPRINGS, WV

The Morgan Arts Council reopens its Ice House Gallery on Friday, May 29 with “Go West!” The multi-media show displays the work of more than a dozen artists capturing a variety of western images ranging from mustangs running free to Native Americans, pioneers and cowboys. The show hangs through July 19, 2020. Gallery hours are Saturday and Sunday 11am-5pm. Precautions aimed at the safety of staff and patrons are in place.

The show is curated by Berkeley Springs resident Tricia Lynn Strader who said she was inspired by a childhood filled with images of the American West conjured up by B-Western movies, singing cowboys and family stories of her own ancestors who migrated west.

“For this show, I looked for artists who could provide images of pioneers, wagon trains, cowboys and wild horses, bison, wolves and wildlife, and landscapes,” said Strader. “I also wanted to include the Native Americans because westward expansion changed their way of life forever. We are fortunate as an American society that the Native Americans survived and persevered.”

Strader has collected work both from local and regional artists as well as Native Americans who sell their wares at Pow-Wows across the country including Jennifer Reeder, Yvonne Moore, , Stacey Littledeer of Spiritfire Art, Cecky Ropelewski, and Tsheshani whose sculpture is on the show’s postcard. Ayanna Proctor of Woodland Crow Leather uses porcupine quills embroidered on brain-tanned deer and moose hides, birch bark and rawhide.

Washington County painter Carol Wilks works in various media including pastels, oils, watercolors and ink. Her portrait images of a wolf in water and a bucking bronco are show stand-outs. Eddie Thiel lives in Martinsburg. His colorful Native American painting is featured on the postcard. Photographer Earl Mills is from Shepherdstown. Jack Veara of Sawjac Carvings is a familiar chain saw artist from Morgan County whose black bears are popular sculptures. Jan Knight is another Berkeley Springs artist who produces wood-fired stoneware.

Other media represented are metalwork, wood, jewelry and beadwork.

Strader considered Morgan County’s Native American history along the Potomac River and Berkeley Springs’ famed warm springs as a known tribal destination as fitting reasons to stage a Western art show here

The Ice House is a former cold storage warehouse transformed into a regional arts center through the efforts of the Morgan Arts Council (MAC.) Berkeley Springs has a noted national reputation as a popular art town.

The curated gallery shows are presented with financial assistance from the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History, and the National Endowment for the Arts, with approval from the West Virginia Commission on the Arts, and local hotel/motel taxes.

The Ice House is at the corner of Independence and Mercer in downtown Berkeley Springs, WV. For more information on this and other MAC activities, call 304-258-2300 or visit www.macicehouse.org.

GO WEST

Carol Wilks

Tseshani

Eddie Thiel

May 29-July 19, 2020

ICE HOUSE GALLERY • Berkeley Springs, West Virginia