

SUBURBAN
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spiritual
impressions

GARRISON

One of artist Josephine Monter's favorite pieces is a horse and a sword-mouthed angel which she calls "The White Horse of the Apocalypse."

The artist creates many pieces with horses and angels, and she finds her inspiration for these works in the Bible's

Josephine
Monter

Apocalypse for St. John. "The times are very hard, and we are in an apocalypse now," Monter says.

"The angels are angry with the nations, because the people fight," she says. "So, the angel comes, with a sword, to punish us."

The artist comments that "if we come back to the simple things — such as nature, horses, and the mountains — we'll have more peace and more love."

Monter makes these figures because "the power is in the nature."

And her works are beautiful symbols of the ultimate destruction of evil and triumph of good.

"We have to come back to our spiritual life," the artist remarks. This spiritual energy surrounds Monter in her Garrison home, which contains a gallery and studio spaces which she built with her late husband, Miguel Paz.

On entering the artist's "Manitou Art Studio," one is enveloped by the natural beauty and creative environment in which the artist lives and works.

"In my mind is the idea of creating, and giving my experience to people," the artist and teacher says of her work.

This spring and summer, people will have the opportunity to be a part of Monter's magic and creativity, because the artist is opening her home studio for artistic events.

Beginning in June, Monter will join students at Manitou in creating masks or puppets, in Mask and Puppet Weekend Workshops held on Saturdays or Sundays through August.

The spiritual expression of mask making, and the magic of changing personality through the creation of traditional and contemporary masks will be explored in the Mask Workshop.

Monter will teach how to make puppets in the Puppet Workshop.

In both classes, the artist and her students will work with different techniques and mediums — including papier mache, plasteline, cardboard, pariscraft, celastic, latex and foam.

Foam is a medium with which Monter developed a new artistic technique some 15 years ago.

"I was on Canal Street in Manhattan, and I found a foam glove and started a whole new form," she says.

"It was so cute," she recalls. "It was the first time that I thought that you could do something with foam."

The workshops, which will also be offered on Tuesdays, are open to "families and students of all ages."

The artist says that for her, "it's very important to work with families. When a parent and child create," she continues, "their familial roles disappear, and everything is open — they become creators."

The fee for each 10-session workshop is \$300, including materials; call Monter at 424-8334 for more information.

An exhibit of several of the artist's paintings, portraits, masks and puppets is now on display at the Garrison Art Center, through Sunday.

For more information about this exhibit and other upcoming events with the artist, call the Garrison Art Center at 424-3960.

Monter, who is from a small town in the Pyrenees mountain area of Spain, has been in this country for 20 years.

"We came here because of the freedom. There is an open mind here, and more freedom for artists," she says.

— Lisa Feldman Reich