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“Works in Progress” Opens at the Rancho Linda Vista Gallery

Exhibit dates: Sunday, February 1 through Sunday, March 22

Public reception: Sunday, February 15, from 3 to 6 PM

Regular visiting hours: Sundays, 11 AM - 4 PM or by appointment

Location: Rancho Linda Vista, 1955 W Linda Vista Rd., Oracle AZ 85633

Entry: Free. Everyone welcome, but minors must be accompanied by an adult

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The Rancho Linda Vista Gallery warmly welcomes the public to an opening reception for ***Works in Progress***, an exhibit that focuses on the making of art as a dynamic and ever-changing process—rather than merely a means to an end. The show features works by resident artists of **Rancho Linda Vista** (RLV)—the renowned arts community founded in 1968 on an historic ranch in the north-facing foothills of the Catalina Mountains, located in Oracle, Arizona.

For this exhibit, gallery organizers hope to share insights with visitors into what it means for artists to be engaged in an evolving creative process over time. In short, ***Works in Progress*** stresses process over product.

"We wanted people to see works that are either stepping stones or perhaps not 100% realized," says Nicolas Littler Baird, one of the gallery organizers who came up with the exhibit concept.

"In this way visitors may get a sense of the risk artists take in their work. Each time they start something new, they are venturing into unknown territory."

In line with the exhibit title, Joy Fox McGrew will add clay-fired elements to an imposing ceramic sculpture, as the exhibit progresses.

For Andrea Koesters, another organizer who has recently moved onto RLV after living nearby for 6 years, the exhibit is a chance for her to share a recently published book of black-and-white photographs, entitled *Oracle*, that reflects her shifting connections to the people and desert setting that now make up her home.

Yet others are installing nearly, but not quite finished works. "I think it is done," reports the Berlin-born artist and Pima Community College instructor Matthias Düwel, about a 6x6-foot canvas stapled to the wall, "But I'll be better able to tell in a few days, after I've sat with it for a while." The painting, as yet untitled, lays diaphanous and calligraphic swirls of blue paint and floating figures atop a murky and atmospheric architectural setting, one that appears to be in the process of coming undone.

For artists, such as Selina Littler, the creative process correlates with biological and other processes that serve to regenerate life and at times mark its end. These ideas are explored in two mixed-media works, entitled respectively *Viscera* and *Detritus*. Process plays another kind of role both for The Drawing Studio founder and printmaker Andrew Rush and up-and-coming textile artist Tina Bolt, in that each has found a way to use the desert's flora to create one-off prints. While Rush uses earth pigments and an etching press, Bolt allows the plants' natural dyes to impart trace images.

Exhibiting artists include Imo Baird, Nicolas Baird, Betsy Barnds, Tina Bolt, Turner Davis, the late James Davis, the late Maryanne Davis, Emily Duwel, Matthias Duwel, Joy Fox McGrew, the late Bruce McGrew, David Jaffrey, Andrea Koesters, Lilly Kiser Taylor, Selina Littler, the late Charles Littler, Cougar Miller,

Danielle Neibling, Andrew Rush, Judith Stewart, Alex Stern, and the late Jean Stern.

Works in Progress runs from Sunday, February 1, to Sunday, March 22. A public reception for will be held on Sunday, February 15, from 3 to 6 PM in the Gallery and Barnyard at Rancho Linda Vista (1955 W Linda Vista Rd., Oracle AZ 85633).

Regular visiting hours are on Sundays, from 11 AM to 4 PM, or by special appointment. Entry is free and everyone is welcome, but minors must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, please visit <https://rancholindavista.org>.

[PHOTOGRAPHS & CAPTIONS FOLLOW ON NEXT PAGE]



A wall of two-dimensional artworks in a wide range of media, from "Works in Progress," include an etching by the late James G. Davis, two drawings by his son Turner Davis, an abstract oil painting by Danielle Neibling, two mixed-media works by Selina Littler, and on the end two drawings—one in graphite, one in ink—by her late father and Rancho Linda Vista founder, Charles Littler.



A sample of artists' works featured in "Works in Progress" at the Rancho Linda Vista Gallery, in Oracle AZ. Shown clockwise are pieces by Andrew Rush, Matthias Düwel, Emily Stern Düwel, Jean Stern, Bruce McGrew, and (in the center) Joy Fox McGrew.



A fired-clay sculpture in the foreground by Judith Stewart, along with a newly published book of photographs by Andrea Koesters, are framed in the background by an oil painting by Danielle Neibling, two mixed-media wall works by Selina Littler, and two drawings by her father and original Rancho Linda Vista founder, Charles Littler.