



Helpful hearts

Avance El Paso draws on creative bent in luminaires to benefit educational program

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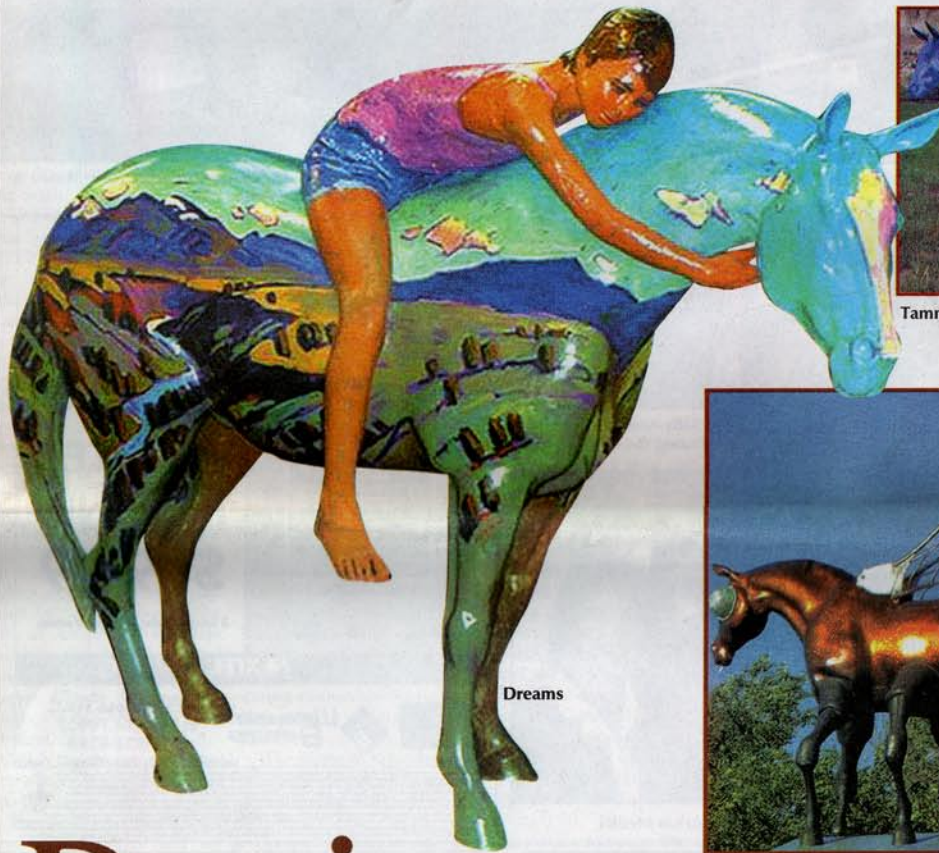
Tablescapes

Pro-Musica Valentine luncheon raises funds and delights in decor, design

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Robbie Myrick Villalobos: Lifestyle Editor

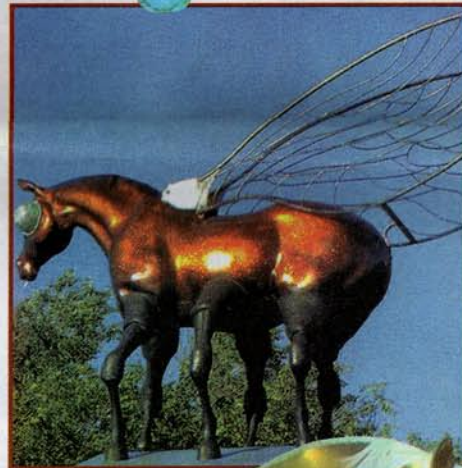
www.elpasoinc.com Section B Feb. 17-23, 2002



Dreams



Tammen



Horsefly



Blonde

Ponies in the Sun

Exhibit ushers in Impact's 20th anniversary

by Robbie Myrick
Lifestyle editor

A half dozen painted ponies soon will be corralled in El Paso as a means of introducing the city to public art. The life-size ponies that also are whimsical artworks will mark the 20th anniversary of Impact: Programs of Excellence.

The ponies are the brainchild of Rod Barker, who will drive them in from New Mexico for display. The display site had yet to be finalized at publication time, but a press conference early in the week will clear up the mystery.

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Ponies

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Whatever site finally is selected will be host to seven horses from the "Trail of Painted Ponies" public art extravaganza.

It follows the theme of animal art projects elsewhere: pigs in Cincinnati, fish in New Orleans, cows in Chicago and Potatoheads in Rhode Island. Los Angeles adjusted its public art project to focus on angels.

Barker selected the ponies to be shown in El Paso to fit the landscape and to support the public art concept that Norma Geller and Sally Gilbert have selected to mark the anniversary of Impact: Programs of Excellence.

"Art and Soul" is what they have called their project that will invite artists to create images of the sun. Designs will begin being accepted March 15 for projects that are to reflect music, literature, mythology, history and science that reference the sun.

Designs will be judged by a committee of educators and the final artworks will be on exhibit throughout the city.

Introduction

The "Painted Ponies" will offer an education into public art and Barker said he will be talking to an unnamed artist about creating a new pony to be titled, "Stary, Stary Nightmare."

He said he purposes to work with artists from Arizona, Texas and New Mexico to tie in support.

"I'm doing a creative sequel next to grow on that success and will add a running horse form to be done by regional artists," Barker said, in call from Scottsdale, Ariz.

He said he was glad to drive down a herd of painted ponies to support the Impact anniversary project.

"They have a terrific concept. A lot of these projects aren't guaranteed success because it requires the right timing and vision and Sally and Norma have been professionals doing their homework and preparing," he said.

Barker said the two Impact founders spent time with him in New Mexico and asked plenty of questions, studying public art failures elsewhere to ensure success in El Paso.

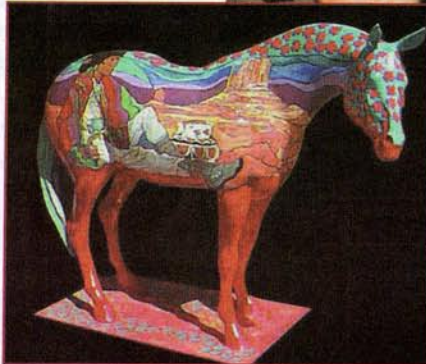
He said he also plans on

some reciprocation and is planning to exhibit some of the final artworks in the "Art & Soul" project in New Mexico.

For further information on where the "Painted Ponies" will be displayed, contact Gilbert or Geller at 545-5068.



Sally Gilbert and Norma Geller will introduce focusing on the sun



Peña



Trailblazer

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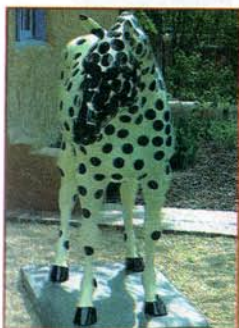
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