

My Turn

Art scene: Yes, times have changed

ROB WILDER NIGHTINGALE

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In response to J.R. Logan's story "Taos Art Market, It ain't what it used to be." Well, of course it "ain't."

Well, word got out that I got really upset when I saw that article, mainly thanks to Facebook. "Why this now?" I said to myself, when Fall Arts is upon us. It's the time, the season to traditionally "make it happen."

After my rant on what Steve Parks had to say, and really thinking about it, I must agree to some of what he does say. Yes, times have changed. The general appreciation of art may have decreased, but that, to me, is not "just" Taos. It's national. I blame, and I don't like to play the blame game, but our educational system is cutting out arts education.

Our youth are being denied a creative outlet, thus when they become adults, they don't know what "art" is.

The art community is still alive. Sure, we've been beaten up. But we are not alone.

Artists continue to produce. Galleries, who have a passion, continue to try and be creative and keep art out in the forefront for "everyone" to see. My gallery is open seven days a week for all to enjoy.

We should support our museums. They do carry the torch as Steve Parks said. The galleries and businesses need to get behind them. Next year they and the Town of Taos are collaborating on a theme "Women of Taos." I know I will be featuring some of my notable women artists.

I have been open 20 years this October. I missed the oil boom and have seen the changes.

Working together and understanding change, good and bad, is all good.

We wouldn't grow if we didn't have that. So, in that sense, the art market in Taos is still alive.

Rob Wilder Nightingale is the owner of Wilder Nightingale Fine Art.
