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FOCUS / SANTA FE

A SELECT LOOK AT SANTA FE ARTS, CRAFTS, TASTES AND STYLES



Bronze sculptures in the gardens at Meyer Gallery, left to right:
"Garden Boy" by L'Deane Trueblood, 42" high, edition of 49
"Flower Basket" by Karl Jensen, 58" high, edition of 59
"The Natural" by Gary Price, 49" high, edition of 60

AN INTERPLAY OF FORM AND COLOR

Nancy Pendleton integrates opposites in joyful homage to nature and geometry.

By Wolfgang Mabry

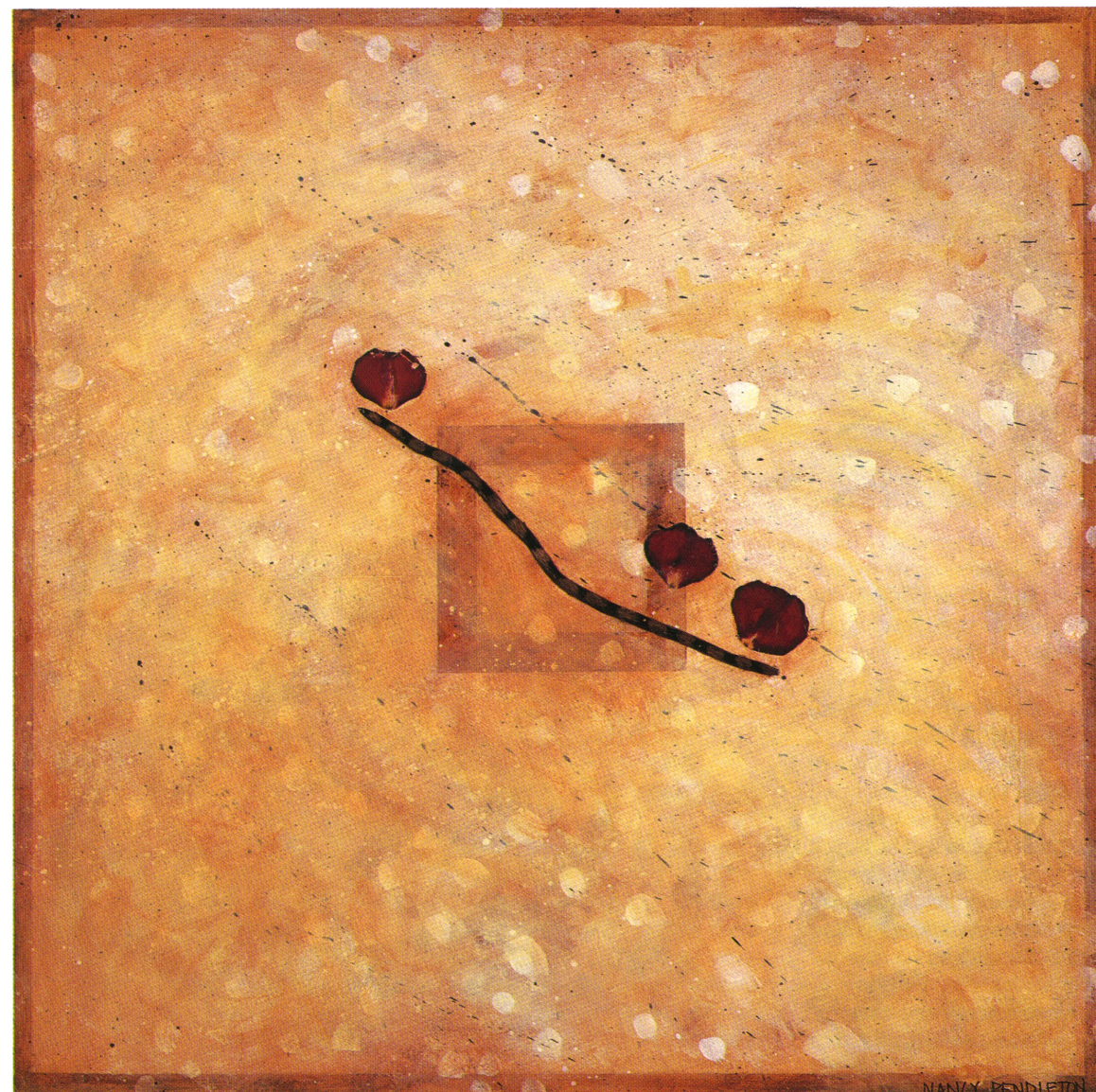
Exuberant and alive with intense color and bold form, Nancy Pendleton's canvases pull viewers in from any distance. Her works entice with layers of visual interest that literally rise up from the surface of the canvas in the form of leaves, flower petals, twigs, vines, seed pods, minerals, and other gifts of nature. In large-format mixed media works on canvas she poetically addresses the intricacy of organic forms in nature and

integrates them into an exquisite interplay with the simplicity of geometric forms and glorious, pure color. Her works are a visual display of intelligence, playfulness, and magnificently original design.

Building on a childhood attraction to creative pursuits, Pendleton earned a BFA degree at Arizona State University in 1983. She then worked as a free-lance illustrator for advertising agencies and publications

until 1988, when she began employment as a newsroom illustrator for the *Arizona Republic*. For the next 13 years she provided illustrations for articles and covers in every section of the paper—News, Sports, Editorial, Life, Health, Food, and Travel.

Working under the pressure of deadlines and art directors was no problem for the creative energy and visual narrative skills that this inventive artist possesses and



"Sense of Balance," mixed media, 36" × 36"



PHOTOS BY KIM KURIAN

"Scarlet Leaves," mixed media, diptych, 24" × 24" each

wields with seemingly effortless grace and elan. Among the awards and accolades of this period are four consecutive First Place Awards for Illustration from the Arizona Press Club and two Awards of Excellence from the International Society of Newspaper Design.

In addition to the colorful and often whimsical work she did for the paper, Pendleton began showing her own mixed media works in 1992. By 2001 she was able to leave the newspaper business and concentrate full time on meeting the strong demand for her exquisitely constructed works.

The focus on nature in Pendleton's work evolved from a memorable walk down her street during which she awoke to the rich colors and textures of some palm bark that had been trimmed from the neighbor's trees. She has since made many collections of petals, pods, leaves, and such, which are as vital to her work as the vivid pigments she favors. Inspired by color in nature, she produces the richest multi-layered reds, coppers, and browns on which and through which she floats the delicate patterns and forms of her botanical and mineral sources.

Pendleton balances a number of important opposites in her paintings. Her bas-relief creations are at once elegant and playful; they are delicate and strong, organic and geometric, simple and complex. Always refreshing in their originality, her works bring enormous pleasure to the eye and to the mind.

Nancy Pendleton's paintings are shown at Adieb Khadoure Fine Arts, located at 610 Canyon Road. Hours: 9:30-6:00 daily. (505) 820-2666 or 1-877-820-2666. akhadoure@aol.com, www.khadourefine-art.com.



"Copper with Curves," mixed media, 60" × 48"