

# ASPEN PEAK



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## MELANIE GRIFFITH

THE ENCHANTING STAR  
ON HER CAREER,  
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MRS. ANTONIO BANDERAS

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MARIO BATALI  
JOHN OATES  
NICHOLAS DUBRUL  
JOSHUA WESSON

**5th**  
ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

CULTURE

ART STARS

## Social Studies

For these two adventurous  
visionaries, our country's landscapes  
inspire mixed-media works of art.

BY HILARY STUNDA



BELL 09  
Dynamo Dance by Stanley Bell



Anderson Ranch artist-in-residence Sonja Hinrichsen

### SONJA HINRICHSEN

"Making art is really about making a statement," says Sonja Hinrichsen, a resident at the Anderson Ranch Arts Center who specializes in digital media and photography. "It's not just about beauty, even though some of my images are seductive. I want the viewer to get an experience." As a native of Germany, Hinrichsen is fascinated by the vastness of America, and this has been the touchstone of much of her work. "I research the historical details: the cultural, societal or anthropological backgrounds, the old stories and aspects of natural history," she says. "Then, with the materials collected, I create media installations using video, sound collages and narrative."

The results are arresting and at times haunting. By honing in on something in nature, either quotidian or historical, Hinrichsen gives us a chance to stop and ponder a deeper meaning. Her multi-channel video installation, "The First Song Was Sung by a Creek," magnifies the pristine beauty of the California coast. Clouds lazily drift by while jagged flames and sounds of a fire crackle and then fade into the golden interior of a flower. The words from a Native American story about creation resonate while

the sounds of water, like silver droplets cascading into a well, surround the viewer.

Whether embroidering giant skunk cabbage leaves in a Connecticut forest with mythical words, or staging a video performance and installation in an abandoned Nebraska farmhouse to examine the hardships of the female pioneer, Hinrichsen is the consummate social anthropologist-cum-artist. *Anderson Ranch Arts Center, 970-923-3181; andersonranch.org.*

### STANLEY BELL

Painter Stanley Bell also reflects on landscapes, albeit through memories of more urban ones. Bell came to the Roaring Fork Valley from Dallas, where he exhibited at the Dallas Museum of Art. He has also been recognized by the National Endowment for Advancement in the Arts.

Bell's work draws from pop culture, graffiti, outsider art, illustration and graphic design. Some of the artists who inspired him include Richard Serra, Cy Twombly and Basquiat, as well as the artists of the Mexican mural movement.

"I love the colors of design, logos. And I like painting these abstract, microscopic energies. I imagine it's what feelings look like," he says.

Bell often paints on discarded planks of wood, and the more flawed, the better. He starts out raw and then builds texture. "I don't like being too delicate," he says. A gouged divot can be a cloud, as implied in the painting *A Good Direction*, an imaginary fragment drifting alone on open waters. Here the exuberant pop gives way to a more somber tableau—predominantly black, white and gray—with faint gestural lines of lime green and lavender. "It's about taking a risk and journey and leaving the comfort zone behind," Bell says.

Three-dimensional glass shards rise against a black skyline. The sky is unadorned, just grainy wood. A white "cloud" appears to be moving toward the city; a singular image of a barge navigates its way through the whiteness, the only speck of life and movement. Above the cloud are the remnants of a skyline etched delicately in pen.

"I've always been attracted to the stories within a cityscape," Bell explains. "And I've always liked works that on the surface look simple, but there's a lot going on." *"Explorations: New Paintings by Stanley Bell" opens August 7 from 6 to 9 P.M. at SAW: Studio for Arts + Works, 978 Euclid Avenue, Carbondale, 970-963-0201; stanleybellstudio.com.*



### Call of the Wild

Local painter Carrie Fell celebrates the New West. **CARRIE FELL PAINTS ICONS** of the traditional West: horses, cowboys, Indians and bar scenes. But Fell's horses are conjured in purple and pink—a single, turquoise gestural stroke becomes the horse's mane. The people in her bar scenes are faceless, except perhaps the cherry-red lips of a woman. The men sidle up to the bar in their boots with spurs and cowboy hats. Piquant, bold and fun; Fell's work exemplifies the energy and attitude of the "New West."

Recently, her painting *Crazy Mountain Slickers* was selected as part of The Booth Museum's permanent collection, one of the most important collections of contemporary Western art in the country. *View some of Fell's works at Aspen Grove Fine Art, 525 East Cooper Avenue, 970-925-5151; aspengroveart.com.—H.S.*