

Feng Shui Gardens • Fall Art Previews • Turquoise Treasures

# santa fean

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## the home issue

modern marvels, family farmhouses, artful adobes



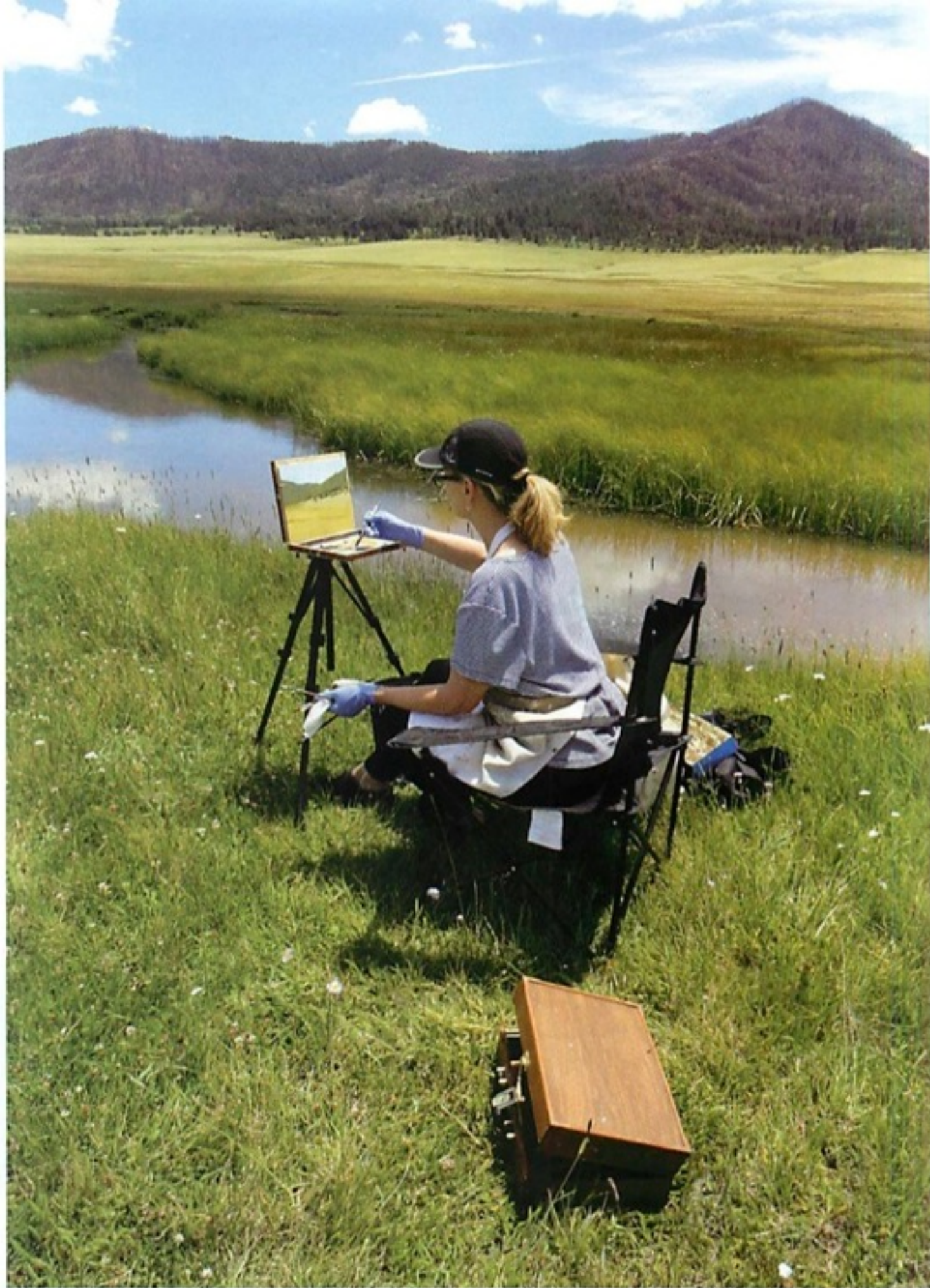
## quiet beauty

by Staci Golar

DURING THE WINTER OF 2002, artist Jamie Kirkland had the opportunity to participate in a month-long painting retreat in Crestone, Colorado. "It was too cold to paint outside," she remembers, "so I went inside, literally, and painted the feeling of the quiet I was experiencing. I realized that you could convey the beauty of a place in more ways than just rendering the obvious landscape forms that you see in front of you."

This artistic "a-ha" moment profoundly influenced Kirkland's work. Years later, she continues to paint minimalist landscapes that inspire a sense of stillness, calm, and boundless space. In them, one can see hints of everywhere she has lived, from the lush wetlands of the South, to the New England coastline, to the great canyons of the Southwest. Her goal, she says, is to bring the emotion of the outdoors into her paintings.

While one could correctly assume that a landscape painter like Kirkland often paints *en plein air*, she also spends many hours working intuitively in her Santa Fe studio, responding to wherever the canvas and paint take her. "I am constantly adding and removing paint and mixing colors on the palette



Top: Artist Jamie Kirkland paints in Valles Caldera National Preserve. Bottom: Jamie Kirkland, *In the Line-Up*, oil on canvas, 24 x 48".



“It’s a magical dance,”  
the artist says of her painting.



Jamie Kirkland, *Sunset Parade*, oil on canvas, 36 x 36"

and the canvas," she says. In fact, it isn't unusual for Kirkland to take several weeks to paint and repaint as many as 12 layers in order to achieve a desired look. By doing so, the pigments sink down, creating an interaction with light that is impossible to achieve otherwise. "It's a magical dance," she says. "My job is to shepherd the paint along through a series of landscape forms until I see an overall color harmony and experience a feeling of beauty."

In her latest body of work, the beauty and color of autumn, particularly as experienced in Santa Fe, comes into Kirkland's dreamlike focus. Using a palette of earthy siennas and umbers to ground the brilliant yellows and ochres one readily associates with fall, Kirkland hopes her paintings will re-create the magic of those first crisp days, like "the way the aspen leaves catch the dazzling early morning light, the smell of the earth, and that second in time a leaf falls."

When it comes to local inspiration, Kirkland adds, "I enjoy hiking the Aspen Vista Trail in the fall, and it seems like all of Santa Fe is of the same mind. We are a happy tribe of pilgrims wandering the road up to the breathtaking view through the golden- and flame-colored trees, out over the soft blue-gray mountains where we can then see forever." ■

*Jamie Kirkland: Shimmer, October 5–18, reception October 5, 5–7 PM, Wintercrowd Fine Art, 701 Canyon, [fineartsantafe.com](http://fineartsantafe.com)*