

## 40 YEARS IN THE MAKING

BY JESSICA DYER  
Journal Staff Writer

Scott Greene says his painting has been greatly influenced by a move from the booming Bay Area to the more rural environs of Bernalillo 18 years ago.

But it was actually a one-year stint in Roswell from 1996-97 as part of the Roswell Artist-in-Residence program that changed his life and career forever.

"It's just gives you time to concentrate on your work and push through things you might not have gotten through just working in your studio toward a show in a gallery," Greene said. "It allows you to concentrate and develop new ideas. It was great. It was a fantastic experience."

Greene is one of nearly 200 artists who have been invited into the highly competitive program since businessman and artist Donald B. Anderson founded it in 1967. After being accepted into the program, resident artists are provided a Roswell home and studio in which to work for a year. There is no charge to participate—in fact, artists receive a monthly stipend that currently amounts to \$800. Artists are not obligated in any way to teach or donate work.

The program is often referred to as "The Gift of Time" because so few artists ever get the opportunity to take time away from the demands of everyday life to focus exclusively on their artistic endeavors, said program director Stephen Fleming.

"For many people, it's the first time in their life they can flow with their natural clock and natural rhythms of creativity," said Fleming, himself a former resident artist. "It's time to reflect on what they're doing and what their motivations are. All those things can only happen in a situation like ours."

Greene, an oil painter, said the experience was especially life-changing for him and his wife, Anne. Because the program is "family friendly," Anne joined her husband in Roswell and was able to work on her own art. The yearlong residency helped the couple do more than explore their creativity—it helped them get their lives back on track after losing a child.

"It kind of came at a really good time. My wife and I lost a child, and it was a hard time. The grant kind of put us back on the road again," Greene said. "It got me back in the studio. It's such a great grant—it gave my wife a studio; she's a painter as well. It gave us time to reorganize our lives. It was crucial for us at that point."

Greene is one of 12 Roswell Artist-in-Residence alumni whose work will be on display at 516 Arts starting Saturday as part of the

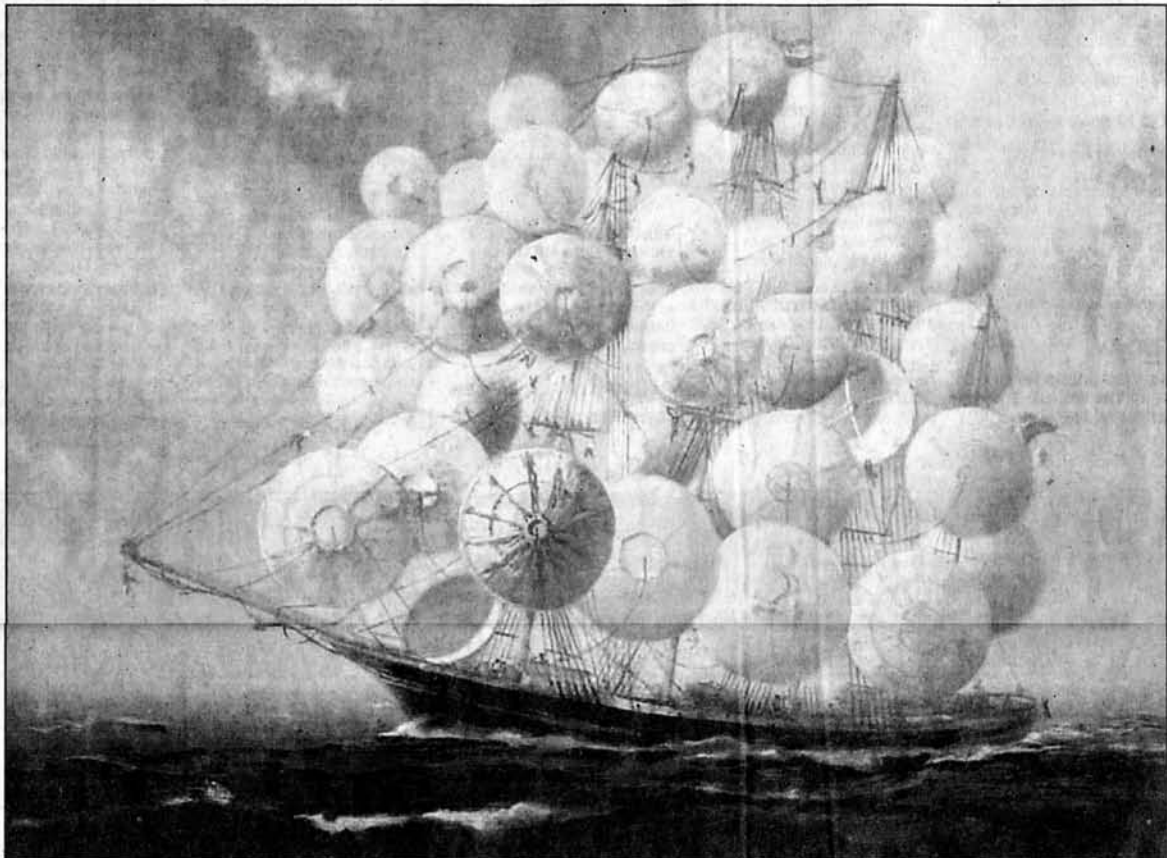


PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT GREENE

Scott Greene is one of 12 alumni from the Roswell Artist-in-Residence program whose work will be on display, starting Saturday at 516 Arts. His 3-plate etching called "Clear Channel" measures 13.75 by 17 inches.

### If you go

**WHAT:** "R.A.i.R. Works 40" with work from 40 years of alumni from the Roswell Artist-in-Residence program; Also "Loosely Joined" featuring New Mexico artists from the Creative Capital Professional Development Workshop

**WHEN:** Shows run from Saturday through Dec. 29; Opening reception is 6-8 p.m. Saturday

**WHERE:** 516 Arts at 516 Central Ave. SW

"R.A.i.R. Works 40" show. Although he works primarily as a painter, Greene will have an etching "Clear Channel" and a painting "Tower of Dabel" on display.

Fleming, who served as guest curator of the show, said one of the goals of the show was to demonstrate the Roswell Artist-in-Residence program's commitment to diversity.

"It's somewhat representative of

the variety of work that we support on the program," Fleming said. "I think if we were trying to make a point, it's that we don't have narrow aesthetic interests. We have broad interests. We're trying to support the visual arts in the broadest possible way."

The show at 516 Arts will feature painting, photography, sculpture and even video art.

The artists represented are: Stuart Arends, Eddie Dominguez, Fleming, Cristina Gonzalez, Greene, Diane Marsh, Frank McCulloch, Mollie Oblinger, Robert ParkeHarrison, David Politzer, Joshua Rose and Raissa Venables.

Although R.A.i.R. artists come from all over the world—the program has had residents from every continent except Africa and Antarctica—those picked for the 516 Arts show all have strong ties to New Mexico.

"Either they were born here or have lived here a number of years or they had a significant moment in their career here," Fleming said.

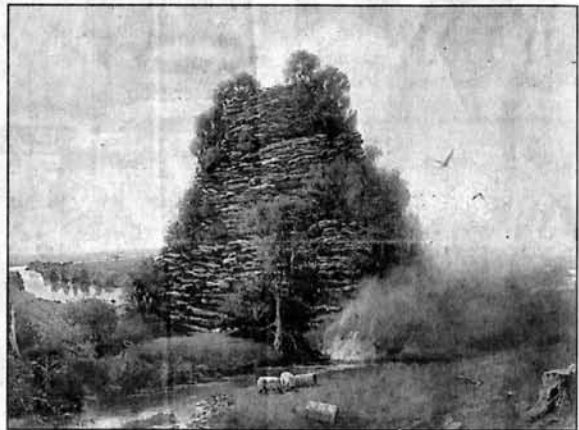


PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT GREENE

Scott Greene said the year he spent in Roswell helped further his career as a painter. "Tower of Dabel" is an oil on canvas painting that Greene completed shortly after his stay in Roswell. It measures 60 by 84 inches.