

# Gardening Insights

## Winter Arts and Crafts

October - December 2012

If you're an art and craft lover, winter is a great time to be in Tucson; there are sales almost every weekend. Here are three you won't want to miss!

First is Tucson-Pima Arts Council's **Open Studio Tour** on November 10 and 11 from 11 to 5 each day. Hundreds of Tucson studios are open to the public, and Oxbow Studios (my place) is one of them. I'll have bee habitat sculptures, coat racks, tables, and wooden vessels for sale, but the best thing is, **I'll have 20 other artists here with me!** Their works include ceramics, jewelry, and painting and photography, plus much more. A list of the artists is below.

On display will be a large metal sculpture created with my friend Gary Nusinow. He and I are now collaborating on bigger pieces for residential and institutional gardens and for commercial spaces. Gary will be there to discuss the sculpture and share our ideas for other big works.

I'm also participating in the **Holiday Fiesta de Arte** with several artists on November 24 and 25 from 10 am to 4 pm. The address is 4802 W. Paseo de las Colinas which is west of Silverbell Road off El Camino del Cerro.

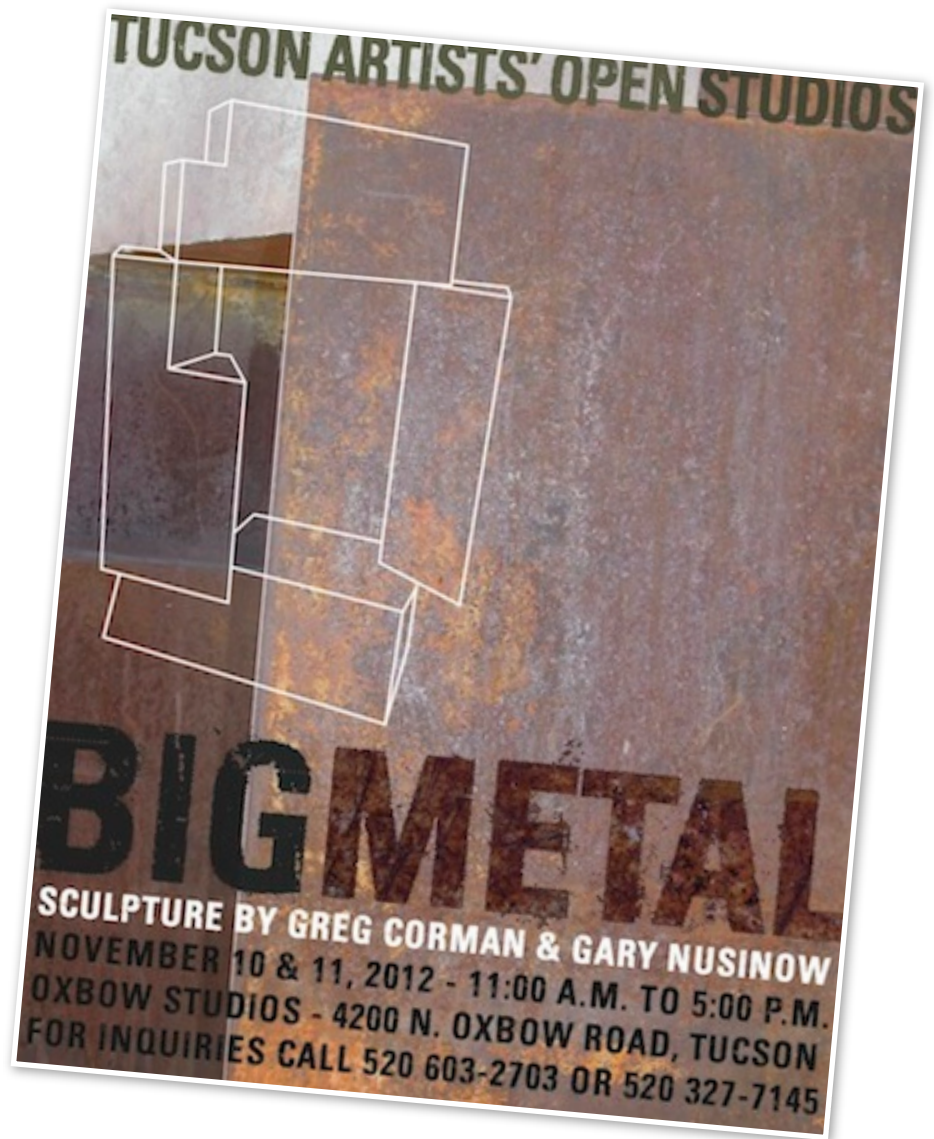
Then, on December 1st from 10 - 4 is the **Poet's Corner Holiday Sale** at 4221 E. Burns St. near Broadway and Columbus. There will be twenty artists there too and it's always a fun event.

If you want flyers for any of these sales, email me and I'll email them to you.



# Open Studio Tour Artists

- Barbara Brandel: painting, mixed media
- Steve Buchmann: photography, sculpture
- Deirdre Calhoun: jewelry
- Scott Calhoun: garden/landscape books
- Tim Clark: sculpture
- Charity Hall: wearable art, jewelry
- Polimana Sierra Long: wearable textiles
- Stacey Lynne: textiles, jewelry
- Carol Mullen: ceramics
- Gary Nusinow: sculpture, painting
- Laura Corman Osterhoudt: jewelry
- Don Otte: turned wood pens and pencils
- Miriam Otte: mixed media, textiles
- Curt Pradelt: photography
- Debra Raeber: ceramics, tile
- Kay Richter: sculpture, photography
- George Rosberg: photography
- Dwight Shogren: wood furniture
- Carolyn Smith: ceramics
- Barbara Terkanian: painting, drawing



## Visiting Bisbee?

Don't miss the **InsideOutside Show at SamPoe Gallery** on Main Street. The opening is Saturday November 17, 6-9 pm. The show runs until Sunday, December 2nd and includes works from Sam Woolcott, Poe Dismuke, Peter Chartrand, Heather Green, Jeff Shriver, Laurie McKenna, Peter Gaffen, Royce & Juanita, Lee Katzenberg & Frank Davis and me. I'll have three or more pieces in there including mesquite vessels and wall mounted bee habitats.



# Simple wildlife water holes

There's no better magnet for wildlife than a water hole. And the good thing is, even a small one will entice a parade of creatures night and day. To keep it sanitary you must ensure the water does not stand long, so here are ideas for simple, self-flushing features that are easy to install and maintain. Unlike birdbaths which need daily cleaning, these pretty much take care of themselves.

The first is a "dribble rock" that creates a very small stream or puddle of water that's just enough for small birds and mammals to drink from. Simply find a large stone that has a small crevice or dent in it that's an inch or so deep. Attach a 1/4 inch copper tube to a permanent water source and attach a pin valve (like those used on swamp coolers) in it to regulate flow. Run the copper tube underground to the stone and bring it over the top to where it will fill the crevice as it drips. Adjust the rock so water will spill to the ground after filling the small space. A flow rate of about 1 drip per second should be sufficient. If you position the stone near a shrub or tree, it will happily use whatever water runs over.



Another possibility is a "critter trough" that will hold enough water for larger animals like coyotes, bobcats, and even deer. These can be fed by copper tubing like the example above (but at a higher flow rate), or with a garden hose or poly tubing like that used for drip irrigation systems. Put a few large stones in the trough so small animals, birds, and lizards can escape if they fall in.

I have a very simple water hole that is fed by a garden hose attached to a battery timer that's screwed on a spigot. It isn't elegant, but it works well and I have it run for 30 seconds twice a day to ensure the water stays fresh. The same could be done with poly plastic tubing coming off an irrigation valve - especially if the valve can be timed separately from the rest of the irrigation system. Another option would be to gravity feed a trough from a water harvesting tank.



All of the materials for making a water hole are available at hardware stores. Check sand and gravel places for boulders or, if you want a fancy dribble stone, visit Tierra Stone on Stone Avenue. They carry large basalt crystals that are drilled for making fountains.



# Speculaas Cookies

Speculaas are delightfully thin and crunchy with a spicy flavor that complements a hot cup of tea or coffee -- they're perfect for the holidays. My wife Susan found this recipe in a 1976 Family Circle magazine and revised it slightly. The recipe makes a lot of cookies that improve with age, last a long time, and ship well too. These cookies are traditionally made in molds, but Susan prefers to roll the dough and cut thin slices.

1. Stir together and set aside:

- 4 cups sifted or stirred all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 1&1/2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground cardamom
- 1/2 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1/2 teaspoon anise extract or ground anise seed
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

2. In large bowl, beat together with electric mixer at high speed until light and fluffy:

- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened
- 1&1/2 cups packed brown sugar - work through with fingers to press out or remove any lumps
- 1 large egg

3. Blend flour mixture into butter mixture well, although don't over do it. You can use the mixer at its slowest speed at first then finish up by hand.

4. Lay out several pieces of wax paper or plastic wrap and divide dough amongst these, spreading dough out and rolling up into log shapes about 8 inches long and 2 inches in diameter. Wrap and refrigerate at least 2 hours, or freeze for future use.

5. To bake:

- Set oven to 350 F
- Lightly grease baking sheets
- Use sharp knife to cut thin (1/8th inch) slices from the cold/slightly frozen cookie rolls and place 1 inch apart on baking sheet
- Bake cookies about 12 minutes or until cookies edges are slightly browning



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