

HISTORIC SANTA FE

The Historic Santa Fe Foundation Monthly Journal October 2017



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eZine cover: Pears behind El Zaguán,
Pete Warzel

Image above: Fall-blooming
anemones. Photo by Lissa Johnson,
Santa Fe Master Gardener
Association

Inside Historic Santa Fe

The staff at El Zaguán is excited for the holiday season. We have an upcoming Stewards event at 540 Canyon Road, three exhibitions and Salon talks to round out the year and our Foundation shop is slowly filling up with affordable local artists' pieces including pottery, jewelry, and tinwork and the staff's custom made gift items and cards sets. We hope you will join us for some or all upcoming events (see the calendar at the end of this eZine) and will visit our shop for your holiday gift purchases to find unique art, support local artist and the Foundation.

The exhibition *Seldom Seen: Works on Paper by Olive Rush* continues at El Zaguán until October 27, 2017. The exhibition contains paintings, collage, and drawings from the artist whose work is rarely seen outside of private collections. On Thursday, October 19 at 3pm, curator Bettina Raphael will speak about Rush's murals as part of the HSFF's Salon series. See the article included in this eZine for more information on the curation of this show and the life of Rush.

In this issue of the eZine, we briefly mention the changes to the building and grounds of El Zaguán and our gardeners provide a beautiful update on the fall care of its Garden. We include an announcement about a Willard Clark print donation and fundraising sale and, finally, display a sample of photographs from the life of Olive Rush. We hope you enjoy this issue.

To receive the upcoming printed newsletter and to attend the Salon talks with no additional entry fee, please sign up for a [membership](#) or [donate now](#). To continue to offer these programs and partnerships and maintain El Zaguán, we ask you to give. **Your Support of The Historic Santa Fe Foundation contributes to the preservation and knowledge of our great city of Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico.**



Fall-blooming irises with roses in El Zaguán Garden. Photo by Lissa Johnson, Santa Fe Master Gardener Association

NEWSWORTHY

EL ZAGUÁN REPAIRS AND RENOVATIONS AND WILLARD CLARK PRINTS FOR SALE

WORK ON EL ZAGUÁN

As autumn reduces the crowds of tourists walking up Canyon Road, maintenance construction on El Zaguán continues at a steady pace. It takes continual work to keep a building of so many uses – HSFF offices, artist residences, gallery, tourist destination, public garden – in good shape, and in recent months several larger scale projects have been in the works. Passersby likely noticed the revamp of our blue-green fence along the street, which resulted in a wider, safer sidewalk. Less visible to the general public is the currently underway work rebuilding the brick walkway which flanks most of the apartments. Keep an eye out for the winter edition of our newsletter, in which we will take you on a more comprehensive tour of the improvements.

WILLARD CLARK PRINTS ON DISPLAY – A FUNDRAISER FOR HSFF

Historic Santa Fe Foundation received a donation of Willard Clark wood engravings in 2017 and has issued an invitation for appointments of private viewings of the 24 works. The pieces have been individually appraised and are for sale as a fundraiser for the foundation.

Twelve of the pieces are currently on display in the Archives and Research room. To arrange an appointment and view the wood engravings, please contact Jacqueline Hill, Jacqueline@historicsantafe.org or Melanie McWhorter, Melanie@historicsantafe.org or call us at 505-983-2567.



Willard Clark
Spring Gate, wood engraving



Discussion about new lavender plantings. Photo by Lissa Johnson, Santa Fe Master Gardener Association

FALL IN THE EL ZAGUÁN GARDEN

HSFF Gardener Linda Churchill speaks about the Garden's seasonal transition

Sometime in late August, and some years maybe in early September, the light in Santa Fe changes. It's subtle, but sure: one day you wake up and the sky is even more blue, the leaves glisten just a bit more, and... it's autumn.

Gardeners get a bit of a reprieve in early fall. The plants have mostly done what they're going to do for the year, the weeds have relaxed their insistent rate of reproduction, and the pace of life in the garden is a bit more relaxed and thoughtful. We can slow way down now on garden chores like deadheading and cutting back: in fall, plants need to reduce top growth and upward energy, and to start sending energy and nutrients into the roots to prepare for the cold months of winter dormancy. Allowing plants to set seed is their signal that the year's cycle is winding down, so it's good to be a bit lazy in October.



Removing plants to replace with lavender. Photo by Lissa Johnson, Santa Fe Master Gardener Association

autumn soil as the garden starts thinking about winter.

It's too early to do fall fertilizing and pruning, for the same reason: we want plants to slow down now, so we wait until the weather is solidly cold and the plants approaching winter dormancy before adding any soil nutrients or doing major pruning, both of which can stimulate non-dormant plants to produce new leaves and shoots instead of caching energy in the soil. Once it's freezing regularly at night we will add natural fertilizers which will break down slowly over winter, improving the soil to make good conditions for the earthworms and other soil life, which in turn will help the push the plants back to life when spring's longer days and warmer temperatures stimulate new growth. For now, though, we allow the drift of golden and brown falling leaves to insulate the

Yes, it's horticulturally and ecologically beneficial to garden softly in autumn. But there is also poetry in leaving plants in glorious fall disarray. A garden that is completely "cleaned up" in the fall lacks texture, movement, and charm through the cold months. The garden is much more beautiful through fall and winter with the silhouettes of grasses and other plants left standing. The seeds continue to attract browsing birds through the winter, and the dry flower heads and branches catch the frosts and snows of winter, adding sparkle and texture even though the summer's colors have faded.

At El Zaguán we do cut back some of the plants in late fall, as the dense stands of asters and some of the plants with lush summer foliage can turn to

matted mush after a few hard freezes. But the garden is left mostly soft and frothy so humans and other people can continue to enjoy its bounty well into winter.

As I write this article on a softly cloudy morning in early October, I'm observing: chickadees scavenging the sunflower heads; towhees scratching through the soil under the almost-bloomed-out asters; painted ladies and other butterflies flitting amongst the cosmos and late coneflower blossoms; a lone goldfinch—or is it a warbler?—balancing on the gaura stems. The garden in fall is truly a lovely place.

The Sheet Mulching Workshop, scheduled for Oct. 21, will involve layering cardboard, horse manure, straw, wood chips, and compost in an area located on the lower level along the west side of the property. This area used to be a vegetable garden, maintained by residents, but more recently has been overtaken by weeds. The purpose of the sheet mulching is to suffocate and extinguish weeds and, also to improve the soil for future plants. Our goal is to improve the view from the garden of the property. Fall is a great time to do this because it will take months for the materials to decompose sufficiently to allow for planting. Next

steps include creating a meadow garden in this area.

As you can see from the pictures that Lissa sent, several plants are putting on their last show of the season. The recent rains are a wonderful way to change seasons as the garden prepares to go dormant. Soon the drip system will be shut off and winterized, a layer of mulch will be added to the garden, especially around new plantings for added protection during the winter months, and plants and humans hunker down for the winter and hope for snow.

The Master Gardeners look forward to returning in the spring, with a possibility of working with Linda on some off-season assignments if needed.

Please stop by El Zaguán to visit our exhibition space and gift shop and sign up for our newsletter to find out about exhibitions, talks and other events on our website (HistoricSantaFe.org). Feel free to call or email with questions, 505-983-2567 or info@historicsantafe.org.



Pointing out the new lavender bed. Photo by Lissa Johnson, Santa Fe Master Gardener Association



Olive painting "en plein air" ca. 1905

EXHIBITION FEATURE

The Life of Olive Rush

During the month of October 2017, Historic Santa Fe Foundation hosts *Seldom Seen: Works on Paper by Olive Rush* in the El Zaguán sala. The exhibition will continue until October 27. The exhibition was curated by artist, conservator and fellow Quaker Bettina Raphael who says about Rush,

An interest in Olive Rush grew out of my involvement over the past several years with the Santa Fe Quaker Meeting, which is housed in the Olive Rush Studio. I was drawn to Olive's story, a single woman venturing out to the wilds of the Southwest in 1920, who forged a life and an artistic reputation for herself here. I share her love of place, admire her feminist independence, and have found inspiration in her work for my own explorations in watercolor. Throughout my 35 years as an art conservator, I have remained passionate about art history. That passion led me to study Ms. Rush's work and archives where I am still uncovering a rich blend of visual

clues and personal insights. I hope viewers to this exhibition find similar inspiration for their own artistic journeys.

Raphael will present a members-only talk on "Olive Rush: Her Paintings on the Walls of New Mexico" on Thursday, October 19, 3pm. To RSVP, please call or email Jacqueline Hill at 505-983-2567 or Jacqueline@historicsantafe.org.

Olive Rush (1873-1966) was born into a traditional Quaker family near Fairmount, Indiana, Olive Rush studied in art schools throughout the East coast and Europe. She was mentored by a variety of established artists including Howard Pyle, Richard E. Miller, and instructors at the New York Art Students League. Rush established herself as a successful illustrator in New York City and a portrait painter in Chicago before moving to the Southwest and purchasing a farmhouse in Santa Fe in 1920. This became her studio and home on Canyon Road for the next 40 years. Here she tended her admired garden, sold her art and took in travelers and young people. The Olive Rush Studio is now the home of the Santa Fe Monthly Meeting of Friends (Quakers) and is still preserved much as she left it. Through her art, Rush documented and elevated both the cultural and natural landscapes of New Mexico. Mastering various media, Rush became best known for her ethereal watercolors and her New Deal era wall murals including true frescos. Her work was shown across the country including at the Corcoran Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the New Mexico Museum of Fine Art, as well as in many major galleries. An early modernist, she was adventurous and experimental in her artwork, embracing surrealism and abstraction early in her career and becoming increasingly non-figurative in her later works. After seeing the Armory Show of 1913, Rush said, "We found we could paint as we liked."

Rush became a major player in the early Art Colony of Santa Fe, and a friend and collaborator with many of the writers and artists drawn to

the community. She had an especially close relationship with Jane and Gustave Baumann. She was an active member of various artistic groups including the Santa Fe Artists' Guild with Andrew Michael Dasburg and William Penhallow Henderson, the Rio Grande Painters which included Cady Wells and Paul Lantz, and national organizations promoting women artists. In New York, she has shared a studio with Georgia O'Keeffe and later in New Mexico they shared a cat, Anselmo. She inspired and helped train the first generation of contemporary Native American artists in the Southwest which led to "The Studio" art movement at the Santa Fe Indian School. Rush was a mentor to many young local artists and advocated for both Hispanic and Native American causes.

In both her art and her life, Olive Rush was led by her Quaker values of simplicity, reverence for life, and faith in good works. As a result, Olive Rush was a social activist, outspoken in the women's suffrage movement, a champion of pacifism, a volunteer for hunger relief and support for refugees after World War II. In her art, she aspired to capture a quality expressed by the Chinese principle, 'The spiritual rhythm in the movement of life'. As noted in the *El Palacio* article of 1925: "Miss Rush's paintings of Santa Fe showed her to be a poet looking for things of the spirit rather than actualities." (Olive Remains in City, *El Palacio*, Dec. 1, 1925, p. 233).



Family Home "Rush Hill" in Fairmount, Indiana, 1895



Left: Olive about 4 years old
Right: Olive's parents, Nixon and Louisa Rush at home, 1890s



Olive in chair with Rush cousins on the grass at Rush Hill, circa 1895



Olive's art class probably in Boston, circa 1913



Olive and Nixon Rush at the Palace of the Governors, Santa Fe, where she had her first one-woman exhibit, 1914



Olive and Jane Baumann, fellow Quakers, with hollyhocks



Commissioned wall paintings by Olive Rush in the New Mexico Room at La Fonda Hotel, 1928



Based on success of La Fonda murals, Olive Rush was commissioned to instruct Native artists to paint walls of the dining room at the Santa Fe Indian School: Olive, in center, with student artists and BIA dignitaries at first showing of murals, 1932



Olive Rush with paintings ready for retrospective exhibit at New Mexico Museum of Art, 1957



El Zaguán Garden. Photo by Lissa Johnson, Santa Fe Master Gardener Association

HSFF MISSION

Our mission is to preserve, protect, and promote the historic properties and diverse cultural heritage of the Santa Fe area, and to educate the public about Santa Fe's history and the importance of preservation.

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OCTOBER/WINTER 2017 CALENDAR

For a list of all HSFF events, visit our website, historicsantafe.org/events.

Thursday, October 19, 2017, 3pm - Salon El Zaguán Presentation by Bettina Raphael – A Talk on "Olive Rush: Her Paintings on the Walls of New Mexico" [545 Canyon Road Suite 2](#), Thursday, October 19 at 3pm. RSVP required.

Sunday, October 21, 2017 - Sheet Mulching Workshop with Santa Fe Master Gardener Association at El Zaguán. More info on the Santa Fe Master Gardener website sfmga.org

Seldom Seen: Works on Paper by Olive Rush on display at El Zaguán, [545 Canyon Road Suite 2](#). The exhibition continues through October 27 and features 35 works by the noted Quaker artist.

Friday, November 3, 2017, 5-7pm - Kuzana Ogg: *True Blue* Opening. Exhibition continues through November 22

Thursday, November 9, 2017 - Salon El Zaguán with Heloise Jones, *New Mexico's Allure for Writers: A Perspective Beyond Landscape*

Sunday, November 12, 2017, 4-6pm - Winter Stewards gathering. This is Steward Members Only. For more information on the Stewards, visit historicsantafe.org/stewards

Friday, December 1, 2017, 5-7pm - Anna Booth Opening. Exhibition continues through December 29.

Thursday, December 1, 2017, 3pm - Salon El Zaguán with Linda Tigges, *Spanish Colonial Women and the Law*

To share events please contact the HSFF Development Associate Melanie McWhorter at 505-983-2567 or melanie@historicsantafe.org
