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Frank Croft: Spaces and Spirits

Santa Fe, New Mexico, August 8, 2008: An exhibition of new work by Frank Croft opens at Owings-Dewey Fine Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Friday, August 15, 2008

Over thirty oil paintings will be exhibited, exploring a variety of New Mexico themes by an artist well versed in the history of art in New Mexico.

Frank Croft is essentially a self-taught artist. Over the years he painted in his spare time; exhibiting his work in solo and group shows. In 1983, Croft moved to Santa Fe, where he began to paint with a group of artists loosely affiliated with Eli Levin.

Croft, along with Carol Mothner and David Barbero, would meet on Wednesday nights in Levin's studio to paint and discuss art. The group began with a focus on printmaking, but over the years shifted its focus to oil painting. Until recently however, Croft's artistic career has taken a back seat to his career as an art dealer, however one could not have existed without the other.

Croft has dealt in the paintings of the Taos Society of Artists and *Los Cinco Pintores* for over twenty years. The artists of these schools, E.L. Blumenschein, E. Martin Hennings and Victor Higgins to name a few, are his main artistic inspiration. Handling paintings by these artists has given Croft a direct link to their technique and their subjects; subjects that Croft explores in his art. The unique landscape of northern New Mexico, its churches and its Native American culture, are all expressed in Croft's paintings.

As Croft states, "I find that in my paintings no color straight out of the tube will do justice to my sense of color. I have a certain palette that is unique to my work and then from that base of color there are an infinite number of color possibilities. Every artist of note works with a unique set of colors on their palate that is their own. It has taken a long time for me to develop this color strategy and a new color addition rarely appears. When a new color does find its way onto my palette it usually involves a tedious study to get the color the way I want it."

The exhibition will run from August 15 through September 13, 2008, an opening reception will be held Friday, August 15, from 5 to 7 pm. For further information please **contact Laura Widmar** at Owings-Dewey Fine Art (505) 982-6244