Painted Trails

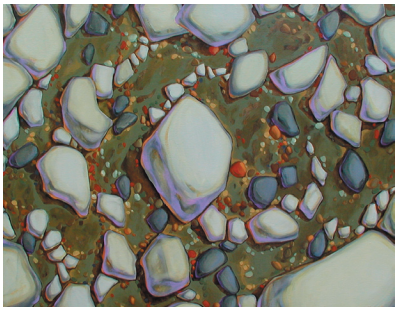
May 25 - Aug. 1, 2006
Connections Cafe

Winter Manzanita

"Painted Trails, the art of **Sheila Kollasch**, contains oil paintings created from photos or sketches made while she was hiking throughout Arizona. From Lake Powell to South Mountain, including the Superstition Mountains, East Verde River, Phoenix Mountain Preserve, Mazatzal Wilderness, Tonto Creek and the desert outside Wickenburg, the landscape, geology and plants have inspired Kollasch to interpret what she sees into texture, line and color that pleases her and brings back memories of sacred places. The paintings share the joy of broken cliff faces, festooned streambed pebbles and tangled trees and plants striving for a foothold on life in a precarious desert.

Waterline Fracture

Kollasch is a native of the Sonoran Desert and has been involved in the fine art community of Arizona her entire life. She began showing in galleries, competitions (receiving several awards) and group exhibitions, including the Tucson Museum of Art and Mesa Southwest Museum, in the mide-1970s. She and Jim Eder collaborated on a two-person exhibition for the Arizona Commission on the Arts Traveling Exhibition program. The popular exhibition, *Arizona Landscapes: Prints, Pastels and Paintings*, received bookings nationally during its three-year tour.



Settling into Place

Kollasch co-founded the Phoenix Artists Coalition (PAC) in 1980 with artist Christine Dawson to foster recognition of local artists. She has participated in numerous community service roles as: artist-panelist for a city of Scottsdale Percent for the Arts Project; grants panelist for the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture and Arizona Commission on the Arts; juror, speaker or demonstrator for many community art clubs in Phoenix, Glendale, Sun City, Sun City West, Lake Havasu City, Prescott and Wickenburg.

Winter Mesquite

In January 1991, Kollasch accepted a two-month contract to install art exhibitions at Desert Caballeros Western Museum in Wickenburg. She was then offered the full-time curator position and stayed for 10 years, reveling in gaining experiences not usually available to most artists. Kollasch resigned to pick up her painting career once again in March 2001. She had her first solo museum exhibition, *Desert Textures, The Art of Sheila Kollasch*, at Mesa Southwest Museum in 2002.

Kollasch's work can be found in the following public and corporate collections: Bank of Scottsdale, Central Arizona College, Century 21 Real Estate, First Interstate Bank of Arizona, McDonald's Corporation, Mesa Southwest Museum, Paradise Valley Community College, Scottsdale Memorial Hospital North and Valley National Bank of Arizona (now Chase).

Dance of Decay

She earned a Bachelor 's of Arts degree with a minor in Museums Studies through Prescott College.