

# localcolor

Taos Founders and a stronger focus on the Cowboy Artists of America.

**S**avvy collectors have long known to venture to the north edge of town to Wilcox Gallery, one of the area's oldest showcases. Prior to March, the gallery located across from the National Elk Refuge was the only place to see the paintings and sculptures of owner Jim Wilcox, displayed alongside those of 30-some other artists. Now the walk is shorter, thanks to Wilcox Gallery II, which opened at 165 Center St. near the Town Square.

Wilcox Gallery II will be a stop on the popular weekly (and free) gallery walks. "We missed out on that being out of town," says Jeff Wilcox, Jim's son and director of both galleries.

**e**lkhorn Designs, a 17-year-old store and design company in Jackson, wasn't just about elk, or even about antlers. But that name sure seemed to indicate an elk antler focus, so last fall owner Denton Kanouff renamed the business Jackson Hole Designs. And he moved the retail store from Center Street to the south side of the Town Square, opposite the Stage Stop.

One of the original companies in the valley to work with antlers, Jackson Hole Designs also does custom lighting. Kanouff, who bought the business in 2003, made it a goal to come up with a name that reflected the company's range of products, which includes mica and copper floor lamps and antler chandeliers.

— Dina Mishev and Johanna Love

## galleries

KELLY GLASSCOCK  
Center Street Gallery hums with color.

## movin' and shakin'

**W**hen someone new buys an old favorite, it's always worrisome for longtime fans. But for devotees of Western contemporary, Paul Kimball's purchase of Center Street Gallery from founder Beth Overcast in November is no reason to worry.

"Not much is going to change at all," says Elizabeth Kimball, Paul's daughter and the new gallery director. "We're going to keep all the artists Beth had. If anything, we will supplement them by adding new artists."

Center Street is one of a handful of Jackson galleries to change hands – or names – within the last year. Meyer-Milagros Gallery has a new owner and name, and Wilcox Gallery has added a second branch downtown. Trailside Galleries has a new partnership of owners, while Elkhorn Designs became Jackson Hole Designs and moved across the Town Square.

The area's only gallery dedicated solely to contemporary art, Center Street Gallery was founded in 1987 as Jackson's "Gallery Different." Overcast hung the work of unknown artists such as Malcolm Furlow on her walls. Fresh from a career as a set designer at Walt Disney, Furlow was, and remains, as much an activist as an

artist, combining raucous colors with thought-provoking images. "We want to keep that contemporary and fresh flavor," Elizabeth Kimball says. Overcast remains onboard as a managing partner.

**t**hree-and-a-half years after Mariam Alaskari's arrival in Wyoming, she is the new owner of Meyer-Milagros Gallery. Milagros means "miracle" in Spanish and always has been a favorite word of Alaskari's.

The new owner is keeping most Meyer artists and adding 15 new ones, including popular Jackson painter Sue Cedarholm. Alaskari aims to offer contemporary pieces as well as the more traditional Western and wildlife paintings and sculptures for which the gallery has been known. Prior to buying the gallery, Alaskari was its director for nearly three years.

**t**railside Galleries' managing partner Maryvonne Leshe has retained the reins of Jackson's oldest art gallery after buying out Texas owner Randy Best in March and bringing in two new partners, Eddie Basha and Roxanne Hofmann. The three own the Jackson gallery, located at 105 Center St., and a sister gallery in Scottsdale, Ariz. Patrons can expect more works by deceased painters such as the



KELLY GLASSCOCK  
Jackson Hole Designs has expanded its line of metal crafts, to complement its popular elk antler creations.