

Post Independent

Eye on the Earth

Art show, Earth Day Expo this weekend

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Nearly 40 artists' works are on display at the Hotel Colorado this weekend to celebrate Earth Day April 22.

Showing today through Sunday, with a reception starting at 5:30 p.m. today at the hotel, the "Home Grounds" art show features work in mediums of all varieties.

Paintings, sculptures and mixed media work will celebrate the planet we call home.

"It's a chance to pause and celebrate the earth," co-organizer and artist Martha Cochran said.

The art show benefits the Aspen Valley Land Trust, of which Cochran is executive director. The nonprofit organization — which has helped preserve more than 20,000 acres of working family ranches, wildlife habitat, and recreational areas in the Roaring Fork and upper Colorado River watersheds — is the oldest land trust in Colorado. In 2006 alone, AVLTT spearheaded 30 new projects and conserved more than 5,200 acres of land and watershed areas.

"Home Grounds" serves as both a way to thank AVLTT supporters, as well as acknowledge Earth Day. Cochran and co-organizer Mary Noone sent out 1,000 invitations for today's opening of the show, now in its third year.

"It's a good way to include more of the community," Cochran said. "The artists have been so supportive. No one said 'no.'"

The reoccurring theme in "Home Grounds" is the beauty of the Roaring Fork Valley, said Noone, also an artist whose work is featured in the exhibit. Noone and Cochran were excited that the historic Hotel Colorado was playing a part in the valley's Earth Day art show.

"It will be quite charming," she said.

Cochran said she would like to see the event continue to grow in size, eventually leading to something epic.

"We're hoping someday it will become part of a bigger celebration," she said. "Glenwood needs to celebrate Earth Day."

"Home Grounds" will be open from 5:30-8 p.m. today; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday; and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday.

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