

Tito's Gallery
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PRESS RELEASE

SURGEON TURNS TALENTED HANDS TO FINE ART

Tito's Gallery on Bridge St. in Las Vegas will feature the paintings of physician-turned-artist Dr. Alan Thal during the Second Saturday Art Walk in June. The story of the transformation of a noted surgeon into a painter is a fascinating one. Dr. Thal impacted the lives of many people in Las Vegas and the surrounding areas during his time there.

Dr. Alan Thal was born in Capetown, South Africa and graduated in medicine from the University of Capetown. He obtained his surgical training at Johns Hopkins University and the University of Minnesota. After his time at the University of Minnesota he was appointed Professor and Chairman of the Department at Wayne State University. He then was appointed Professor of Surgery at the University of Kansas. Following this he wanted to live in northern New Mexico where a cardiac and thoracic surgeon was needed. He practiced at Northeastern Regional Hospital as well as the University of Kansas. His career was terminated by a life-threatening meningitis in the 1990's. Since that time Dr. Thal has joined his wife in running Thal Ranch and developed an interest in painting. During his career he published two books and wrote about 140 scientific and medical papers. Some of the instruments he developed continue to be used throughout the world.

Tito's Gallery will feature Dr. Thal's landscapes which include scenes from around Las Vegas and the land, rivers, creeks, and lakes near Thal Ranch which lies between Buena Vista and Watrous in northeastern New Mexico. Thal paints the willows and aspens that line places like Coyote Creek and the Mora River. "Shady Walk," an oil on canvas, shows the shadows of evening beginning to close in after the first Fall snow. About "Sunrise on Golondrinas" Dr. Thal says, "I awakened one early winter morning and saw this sudden burst of light transform the darkness into a beautiful color form. This lasted but a few moments but I was able to capture it on canvas in vibrant oil colors." With these and other works, Thal creates his impressions of the places he loves.

Dr. Thal has also painted abstracts which will be on display at Tito's. He has studied the works of world famous abstract impressionist painter Richard Diebenkorn who worked for a time in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Two of these paintings, influenced by Diebenkorn will be shown.

The Second Saturday Art Walk at Tito's Gallery will begin with an opening of the show on June 13 from 2 to 5 PM and continue throughout June and into July. Light refreshments will be served. The public is invited to meet the artist during the opening.

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