



Jansen found artistic freedom in Cave Creek

By Curtis Riggs

CAVE CREEK - When equestrian Micky Jansen is not creating oil paintings of her horses or depicting ancient Navajo stories on canvas she is just happy "finding her balance" with her animals in her new home.

"Now I'm free," the Dutch painter who moved to the Valley in 1979 said about finding her paradise in Cave Creek three years ago.

More earthy tones have crept into her abstract-expressionist paintings since she found her balance, which is a melding of her creativity and her love of nature and everything in it.

"I got used to the smoothness and texture of oil," she said about her chosen medium. "Oil has a sensuality to it and it is great for blending. It feels so good when I work with it when it's wet."

She uses the Navajo story about Spiderwoman to illustrate her belief that people create their own lives through the choices they make.

"Sometimes even bad things can teach you something or give you a new direction," she said.

She was so taken with the story about Spiderwoman, who

the Navajo say created life, that she did a painting about the story, which has become very popular. She did this painting after a visit to Canyon De Chelly in 2006.

"I take whatever I am feeling inside and express it on the canvas," she said about why she is often doing several paintings at the same time. "I have a painting for every mood I am in."

Her paintings, and moods, often revolve around her love of horses. This has made her a popular artist in Cave Creek, proven at the recent Hidden in the Hills artist's studio tour. Visitors were very taken with her equine paintings.

Even though her paintings are abstract and expressionist she has learned to find ways to bring out the personality of the horses in them.

"I try to put all of the character I can into an abstract painting," she said about the style she developed after moving to Cave Creek.

She explained, "Sometimes animals come to you for a reason," helping to balance her life in Cave Creek.

To find out more about Micky Jansen's art visit her website, www.blueamazon.net.

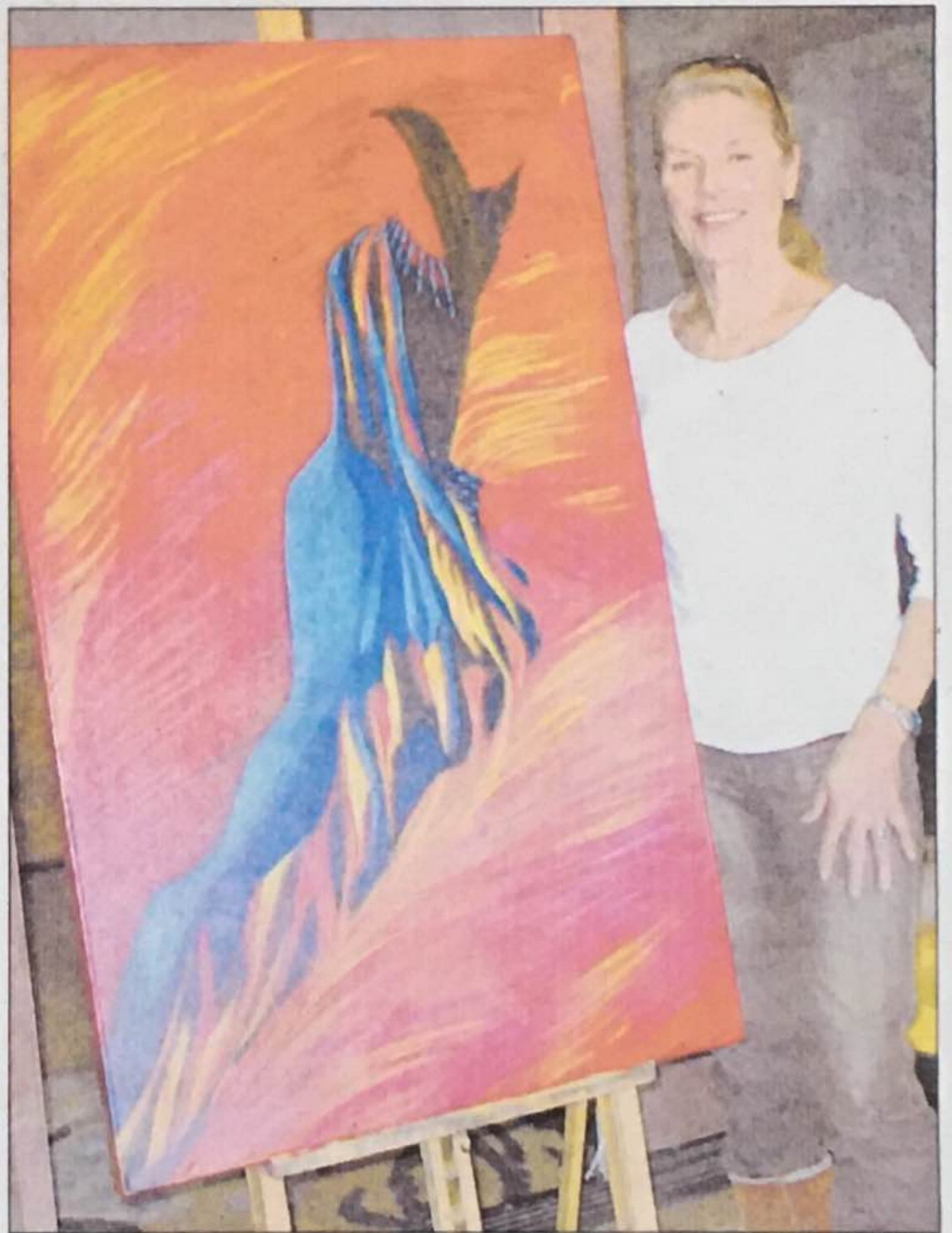


PHOTO BY CURTIS RIGGS

www.SonoranArtsLeague.org

PenWorks

Fine writing instruments & accessories

Holiday SALE
Italian Style



December Art Calendar

December 6 through January 6: American Women Artists at LeKae Gallery. 7106 E. Main St., Scottsdale. Call 480-874-2624.

Friday, December 14: Level 9 Gallery Artists Reception, featuring the new work of Felice Kent. 5 to 7 p.m., 6552 E. Cave Creek Rd, #2 (behind Dairy Queen).

Saturday & Sunday, December 15 & 16: Treasures In Art Festival of Fine Arts. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 8711 E. Pinnacle Peak Rd., Scottsdale. Call 480-585-9800 or