

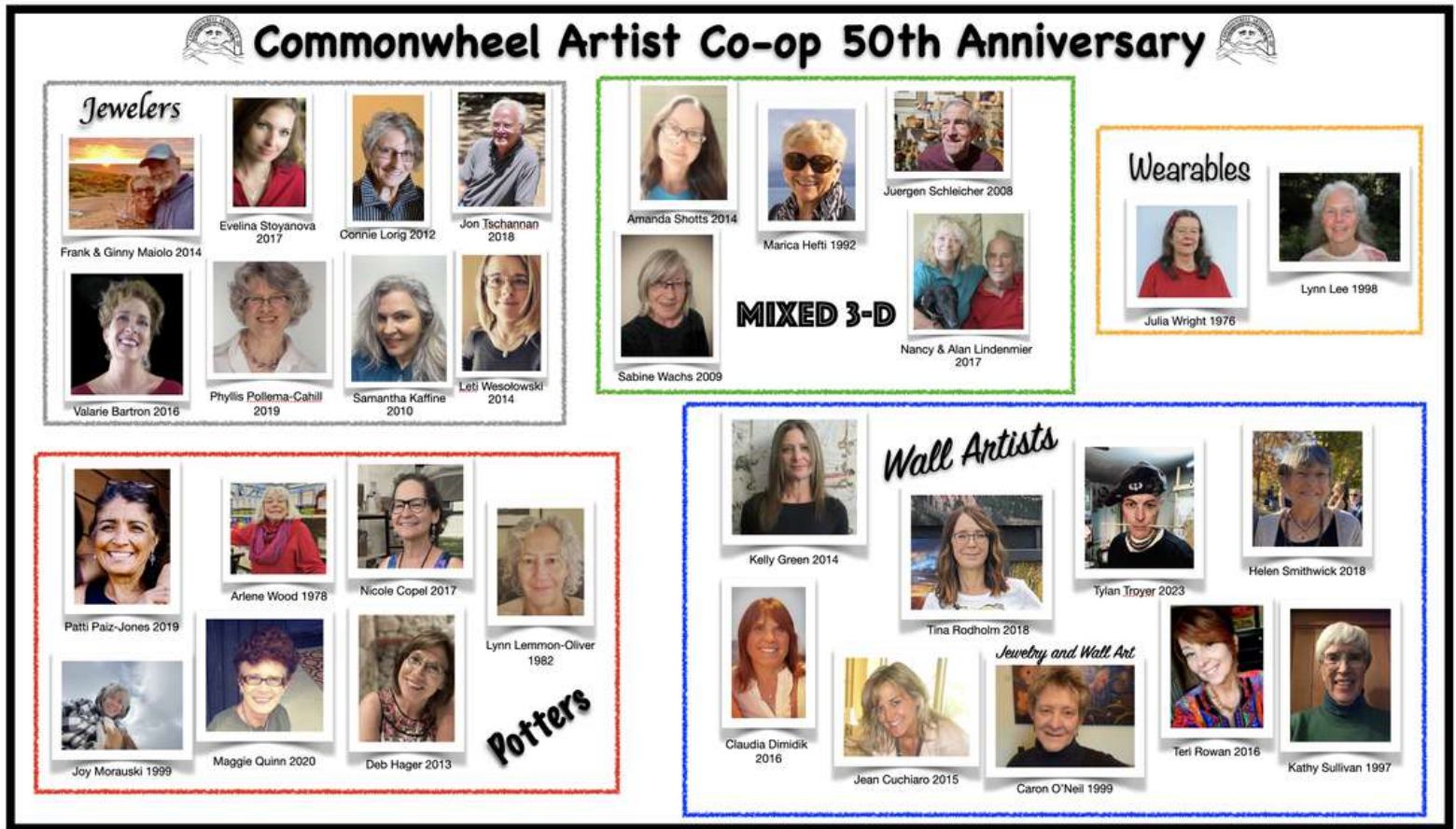


THE FIFTH DECADE - 2014 - 2024

The Class of 1974



The Class of 2024



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Commonwheel Artists Co-op Concludes Year-Long 50th Anniversary Celebration

Manitou Springs, CO - December 31, 2024 - The Commonwheel Artists Co-op proudly concludes its year-long celebration marking an incredible milestone—50 years in business. This year has been one to remember, filled with joy, reflection, and community connection.

From our vibrant First Friday events over the summer to the spectacular Labor Day Festival— one of the best in our history—2024 was a testament to the enduring bond between our co-op, our artists, and our loyal customers. We were thrilled to welcome both longtime supporters and new faces into our fold, resulting in a year of wonderful sales. As part of our celebration, we

gave back to the community we cherish through special discounts and awarded an \$800 scholarship to a talented art student in Manitou Springs.

Reflecting on the years also gave us the opportunity to look back at the world of 1974, the year of our founding. It was a year of innovation and cultural milestones. Post-It Notes, Rubik's Cube, Dungeons & Dragons, Skittles, and Mrs. Fields Cookies all made their debut. Stephen King's first novel, *Carrie*, was published, Mel Brooks' *Blazing Saddles* hit the big screen, and Barbra Streisand's "The Way We Were" topped the charts. However, it was also a year of challenges, including significant political disruption that culminated in President Nixon's resignation.

Through five decades, the Commonwheel Artists Co-op has weathered the good, the bad, and the ugly. Despite the inevitable changes, our commitment to fostering a love for art and building community remains steadfast. These core values have guided us and will continue to shape our future.

As we close this remarkable chapter, we extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who has supported us on this journey—our artists, customers, and the Manitou Springs community. Here's to the next 50 years of creativity, connection, and inspiration.

About Commonwheel Artists Co-op

Founded in 1974, Commonwheel Artists Co-op is a collective of local artists dedicated to showcasing handcrafted, one-of-a-kind pieces. Located in the heart of Manitou Springs, Colorado, the co-op has been a hub for creativity and community engagement for half a century.

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