

Park County Dugout



Tory Elena Moeckel and 30-Artists show their talents at the Livingston Center for Art & Culture Flow Exhibit and meet Community Members during Artist Reception on Friday night.

May 20, 2023 | [Park County Dugout](#) | [Livingston](#)

By Jeff Schlapp

Livingston Center for Art & Culture Board member, Ronn Bayly, continues to try to put a bit of sophistication into my life, by inviting me to the *Centers* Art Exhibit Receptions over the past couple of months. And although I would never be confused with someone who could sit and talk with a manner of knowledge about David Hockney's work, I am now comfortable sitting inside Parks Reece Gallery (<https://www.parksreece.com/>) and chatting him up for a bit.



Livingston renowned Artist, Parks Reece relaxes inside his gallery during the *Livingston Center for Art & Culture Flow Exhibit Artist Reception* on Friday night in Livingston.

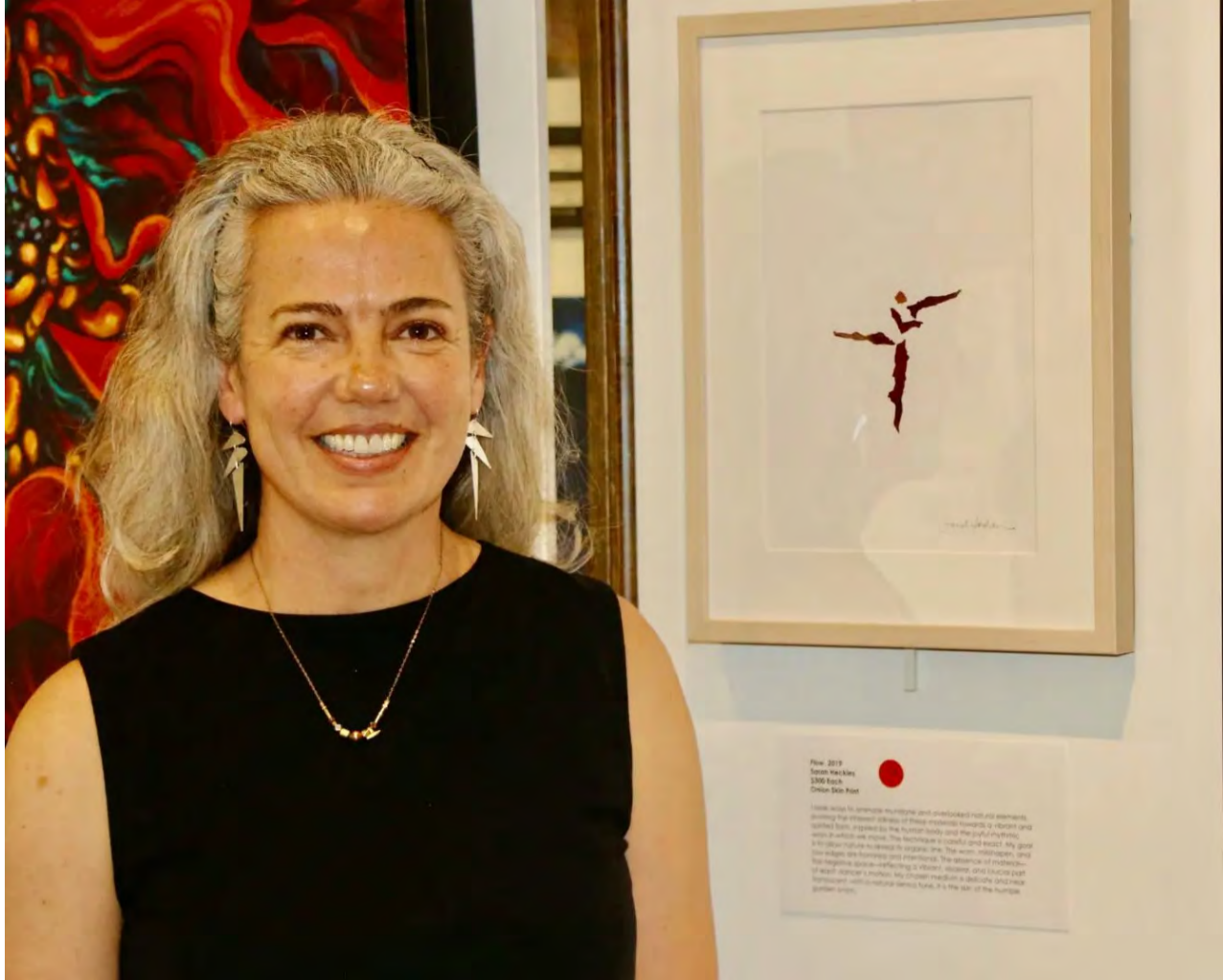
On Friday night the *Livingston Center for Art & Culture* (<https://www.livingstoncenter.org/>) welcomed in a large crowd of local community members for their ongoing *Flow* exhibit Artist Reception.



On display were ceramic pieces, acrylic paintings, vintage wallpaper collages and onion skin on paper (my favorite by Artist, Sarah Heckles). I'm still not comfortable talking to artists. I feel like Chris Farley interviewing Paul McCartney during their SNL skit years back (<https://www.nbc.com/saturday-night-live/video/the-chris-farley-show-paul-mccartney/2868143>). Just something about them that I find intimidating, mostly their immense talent.

But there were four who agreed to chat with me, my muttering questions aside. One chose not to, she was only interested in being interviewed by a "real newspaper." Alrighty.

So, artist Sarah Heckles. I don't think I'll ever forget her. True she is very engaging, an amazing sense of calmness surrounds her, and she has a lightbulb smile. But it's what she works with – dried onion skins which makes her both unique and unforgettable. You can find her work at her website, sarahheckles.com or her Instagram page (<https://www.instagram.com/sarah.heckles/?hl=en>).



Sarah Heckles stands next to her piece, appropriately titled *Flow*, during the *Livingston Center for Art & Culture Flow Exhibit Artist Reception* on Friday night in Livingston.



Sarah Heckles piece titled *Wonder Wind*.

"I was just standing in my kitchen peeling an onion one day," Heckles told me. "The sun was shining in and hit the peels just perfectly and I thought how beautiful they looked, so I put a few on paper and started to move them into shapes. Now these skins have become part of my work. Using scissors and tweezers, I'm able to take the dried skins and move them around paper until I find the shape and then each piece is glued down unto the paper. What I love is how each piece can be seen so differently through viewers."

Indeed. I kept suggesting that her *Wonder Wind* piece looked to me, to be a dog, that was waiting to be put back together. She politely told me (because clearly that wasn't what her intent was in creating the piece of art) that art is

often subjective and people see what they see. She found a pause in our conversation to allow her to escape and I took some photos of the crowd and searched for another artist.

Found her. Abby Maroney from Bozeman.

Using a combination of materials, Maroney creates, analog collage and mixed media pieces.

“I’ve always been interested in art, but over the past couple of years I’ve been exploring creating my work on a higher level.” Maroney said. “I love using vintage materials with modern shapes and combining the two. Sometimes I set out to create a specific piece of work but there are also times that I work in the flow of the moment as I shift the pieces around and I see the piece just start to come together.”



One Day at a Time created by Abby Maroney. An eclectic mix of vintage materials and paint stretched across canvas.



Artist, Abby Maroney stands near two pieces from her collection, *If I Could Turn Back Time* and *One Day at a Time* during the Livingston Center for Art & Culture Flow Exhibit Artist Reception on Friday night in Livingston.

Tory Elena Moeckel (shown on the cover photo) was gracious with her time and chatted with me about both her art and music. On display during the *Flow Exhibit*, until June 10th, is her painting, titled *Red Poppy*.



Red Poppy, painted by Artist, Tory Elena Moeckel.

Tory's *Red Poppy* painting I would hang in my home. Rating art on my scale is simple. If I'd hang it in my home, it speaks to me and I want to leave it to my daughter. If I'd hang it in my office, I want it near me, probably for calming reasons. To date, on a drawing of the 2016 Cubs, a photo of Brian Piccolo, an actual seat back from Wrigley Field and a framed Curt Flood rookie baseball card have made it into my office. The *Red Poppy* painting needs to be experienced up close to truly appreciate what Tory created.



Beyond, by Artist Tory Elena Moeckel.

Tory told me she's been painting for over 20-years, mostly freelance during the past five-years. Her talent is immense as she is a painter, illustrator, graphic designer, sculptor and installation artist. As if that's not enough she is a singer/songwriter and also plays the drums.

Her art work is amazing, but I'm also digging her graphic designs which can be found on her website (<http://www.toryelena.com/>) and her Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/toryelenaart/>).



One of the coolest, hippest, talented and laid back artists you'll run into, Tory Elena Moeckel, models a t-shirt from her graphic design collection.

I also spent a few moments with Artist, Kathryn Murphy.



Kathryn Murphy stands with a piece from her collection of art, *Meditation I* (shown in middle) during the Livingston Center for Art & Culture Flow Exhibit Artist Reception on Friday night in Livingston.

Murphy explained that it's her love of nature which drives her art work.

"I love being outdoors and find inspiration from what I see and feel," Murphy said. "I usually have my sketch pad along with me and I tend to see something that draws me to it and I'll sketch it. I will bring home rocks, sticks,

whatever nature has provided me with inspiration and then draw and paint what I saw.”


Murphy has a very cool and interesting blog which you can follow at <https://bluemothcommittee.com/blog-wells>. And to view more of her art collection drop into her website at: <https://bluemothcommittee.com/>.

The Livingston Center for Art & Culture, *Flow Exhibit* continues its run through June 10th at: 119 South Main Street, in Livingston.

[← Mountain Berry Bowls Food Truck \(Healthy, All-Natural, Smoothie Bowls & Best-Taste Ever\) opens in Livingston with local franchise owners, Courtney and Johnny Kaiser.](#)

[On Saturday, The Park County Dugout, Rumbling Ponies T-Ball team remained undefeated, thanks to their gritty play and gutsy hit and run style of baseball, coached by Managers, Taylor and Kyle Neighbauer. Oh and the league doesn't keep score. Shhhh. The Mayor of Funville – Maggie Tarr, brings fun to the littles. →](#)

Park County Dugout

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