

The High Desert

# PALETTE

Jan. 2022, Vol. 2, No.5

**EXCLUSIVE**

Student to Teacher, Pg. 16



**DID YOU KNOW?**

Hedy Lamarr, Pg. 12

**HEATHER MASSIE**

Astronaut to Actor, Pg. 6

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## WELCOME TO *The High Desert Palette*

Welcome to *The High Desert Palette*! In our first year's nine issues, we brought work from local artists to these pages to share – from painters to blacksmiths; writers to culinary artists; photographers to musicians – and we've barely made a dent in the list of talented creatives in the area.

Art is meant to be shared: every page will share something intriguing and creative, and every issue is something that you can share with others after you've read it.

You can share with us your knowledge about more artists and creatives, so that our future issues will bring their work to the fore and for writers, share your writing in these pages.

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## HEATHER MASSIE

### Astronaut to Actor

By Josh Allred

Hedy Lamarr was, throughout her life, a stunningly beautiful actor and unsung inventor. Known today as ‘the most beautiful woman in the world’ and ‘the mother of Wi-Fi’ her life left a lasting mark on both science and cinema.

*‘HEDY! The Life & Inventions of Hedy Lamarr’* uses the accomplished and impactful life of Hedy Lamarr to inspire and encourage according to the writer and performer of the play,

Heather Massie. “My mission is to inspire audiences to make the world a better place. Especially to encourage young women in science and technology.”

### Kindred Spirits

Some of us can’t remember the desired career of our eight year old selves, much less say that we pursued them. Heather Massie can claim both. “From the time I was eight years old I wanted to be an astronaut; or an inventor, or to work with animals. I really focused on math & science and started university in astrophysics with the goal of becoming an astronaut.”

Heather studied at the University of Virginia and later at The Virginia Tech School of the Arts



Learn more about Hedy Lamarr on pg.12

learning about Theatre Arts. At this time in her life, Heather feels a connection with the subject of her play. “Hedy and I are kindred spirits in that she was a performer who loved science.”

### Full Circle

Heather offers a couple reasons for her transition between astronaut and actor. The first being a simple lack of interest. “I felt like I wasn’t enjoying the work in school as much as I needed to have a chance doing what I wanted to do, which was to be an astronaut.

Second were circumstances beyond her control that

prompted a pause in her aspirations. “I had mono one year and I got behind, and that was when I was first diagnosed with clinical depression. I knew I needed to take some time off.”

During this time Heather was able to further investigate an interest that she was never able to fully embrace due to a hectic schedule. She began taking theater classes out of personal interest. When she went back to formal education she went for Theatre Arts, graduating Summa Cum Laude.

After compiling an extensive acting resume she determined to go solo to realize some of the goals

“ Hedy and I are kindred spirits in that she was a performer who loved science”

she had collected during her career. "I thought that I would eventually land in some project that would involve science and that never happened. I always wanted an international tour. That didn't happen. So, in order to create something that I could take anywhere in the world, I decided I wanted to feature a woman in science as a solo play."

Now she finds work in a variety of venues, performing effectively in locations as small as an Irish pub and as big as a 2,000 seat theater, with interest from audiences in both science and art. "I really did put science in a box and put it away. Now I've found a way to take that out and honor all the parts of me."

## Slaying the Dragon

Many grapple with depression to some degree or another, be it a permanent affliction, or a temporary episode. Heather's thoughtful advice echoes the actions she took to rediscover a love for life, and a purpose in her work. "I guess the advice that I could impart is to do something that you love to do, and that is close to your heart, and to your love for life. That is what gets me through the hard bits. Even when it's a battle with myself."

Heather's own struggle led to the forced pause in her life that directed her to acting, but it is still a battle. "I do struggle. I have to slay the dragon everyday, but a lot of times I win."

*"I really did put science in a box and put it away. Now I've found a way to take that out and honor all the parts of me."*

See Heather Massie perform live at The Palace of Art and Theater!



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Jan. 27th & 28th

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## 'HEDY!

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Jan. 29th

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Feb. 1st

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Feb. 4th

# DID YOU KNOW?

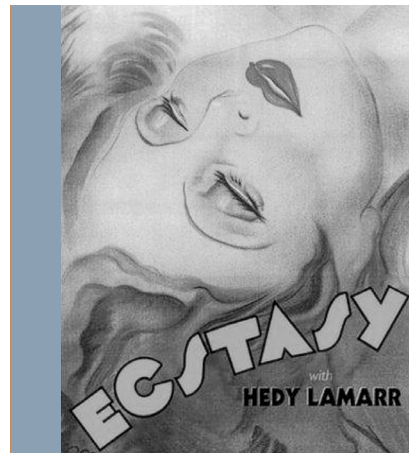
## HEDY LAMARR

By Josh Allred

Hedy Lamarr, known as both 'the most beautiful woman in the world' and 'the mother of Wi-Fi', was both actor and inventor during her impactful and accomplished life.



Originally named Hedwig Eva Kiesler, Lamarr was born in Vienna, Austria on November 9th, 1914. As a child she was exposed to the arts by her mother, a concert pianist, in the form of formal piano and ballet lessons. Her inventive side was fostered by her father, a bank director and curious man himself, who would take her on long walks where they discussed the inner workings of various machines.



Hedy Lamarr's natural beauty lent itself to her interest in acting and a career in film began when she was discovered by director Max Reinhardt at age 16. Her first role was for the small 1930 German film, *Money on the Street*. After playing additional small roles she eventually gained recognition internationally for her part in the controversial film, *Ecstasy* in 1933.



Louis B. Mayer

It was in Hollywood that she changed her name to Hedy Lamarr. Her American film debut was as Gaby in the 1938 romantic drama, *Algiers*. During her time in film she was known for her many roles as a mysterious and exotic seductress. Her most recognized role was as Delilah in the 1949 epic drama, *Samson and Delilah*, which won two Oscars and was the third highest grossing movie at the time of its release.

Her acting career was temporarily halted after her marriage to the possessive Austrian munitions dealer, Fritz Mandl who restrained her from further performances. In 1937 she fled to London and soon after went to Hollywood following an introduction to Louis B. Mayer, of MGM Studios where she secured work.



During her time acting she met businessman and pilot, Howard Hughes. Hughes encouraged and enabled her creative aptitude by giving her access to his scientists and engineers, and gifting her a small set of equipment to use in her trailer between sets while she was away filming. A couple of Hedy's notable inventions were aerodynamic improvements to planes and a dissolvable flavoring that resembled Coca Cola.







# MONIKA CRONBERG

## Student to Teacher

By Gayle Berry

The art is mostly landscapes and animals, in a variety of media – acrylics, soft pastel, graphite, pour painting, oil colored pencil, torn paper collage, some small wire sculptures – all along the walls, on shelves, even leaning against the fireplace. It might be a small gallery, but this is Monika Cronberg's

workspace, filled with art she's created over the last 10 years.

Why all the different media? "I think I'm an explorer. I don't know that I'll ever settle into one medium, because I really do enjoy learning and trying different ways to use those mediums," says Monika. "No matter what, I keep exploring. It's the creative side – 'if this works here, why wouldn't it work there?'"

### A Reluctant Student

In 2010, Monika found herself taking an art class at Cochise College, pushed into it by friends who needed another student so the class would 'make'. The class started with basic technique and charcoal, and though Monika wore gloves because she didn't even like the touch of charcoal, she somehow got past it and discovered she really enjoyed it.

"I had to be dragged into it because I had the mindset – I think a lot of people do – I don't have any talent; there's no way I can do it, I don't have the talent. It was good for me to realize that, as my mother-in-law, who was a fantastic artist, said to me a long, long time ago, 'it's got nothing to do with the amount of talent you have – it's like 5% talent and 95% work.'"

About her favorite medium today, she says, "I keep gravitating back to the graphite, which is crazy. I've enjoyed venturing further with acrylics, and oil painting



still scares me to death." Some of her favorite subjects are animals, especially her cats, of whom she has many portraits.

Referring to her approach to art, she says "I do get in my own way a lot because I tend to be a perfectionist. Initially acrylic was really hard to work with. It dried too fast and I was too slow. Thankfully with acrylic you can go back. You can actually go back over it. The feeling of satisfaction when you're able to bring something out of

yourself and put it on paper or canvas, and other people get some joy from it. That means a lot."

**“ ‘It's got nothing to do with the amount of talent you have – it's like 5% talent and 95% work.’ ”**

Monika continues to explore new techniques through classes, including online. A recent class looked at how to make the perfect painting. In it, she learned about the inward aspects of the artist and how that affects the outward result. "I actually enjoy the pour painting because it got me out of my head a little bit, and I needed that – I was getting so it

wasn't fun anymore. It made me explore imagination again, which I wasn't doing".

One powerful piece is called Purple Pain. "It's a self portrait when I was going through some pretty tough times when my Mother had died and it just expressed the place where I was at that time. Being able to let your emotions go to a medium like that, that was kind of powerful."

Art is an intensely personal experience. "It helped me break some personal barriers, I think, and some personal negativity," she said. "I would talk myself out of things because I didn't think I was good enough. I finally got out of my own way. It would be what it would be, but I'd be better for it."

### An Eager Teacher

After a teaching career as a reading specialist, Monika was able to

combine her profession with her love of art to introduce an art program at Bonita School. "Based on how I kind of grew/drew to art, I was able to start the art program out at Bonita. It really made a difference for some of these kids to realize "Oh, I really can do this".

Now Monika is bringing her teaching and art together again at Willcox Theater and Arts to develop and launch the ACE of ARTS program –

Aging as Creative Endeavor. "I did that at Bonita to help kids, and now I need to help adults (ACE of ART). I just see it as something maybe I was meant to do."

“(Art) helped me break some personal barriers, I think, and some personal negativity.”

“Sometimes we just need to be pushed a little bit into an area that isn't that comfortable, but once we start working in there, we get more comfortable; nobody else is judging us; this is about what I need to do, for myself,” Monika said. "I think I've finally gotten to the point where I really do enjoy it."



✉ [mcronberg@hotmail](mailto:mcronberg@hotmail.com)

Artwork can be found on display at Stronghold Art Gallery, 1036 E. Eastland Rd, Cochise AZ

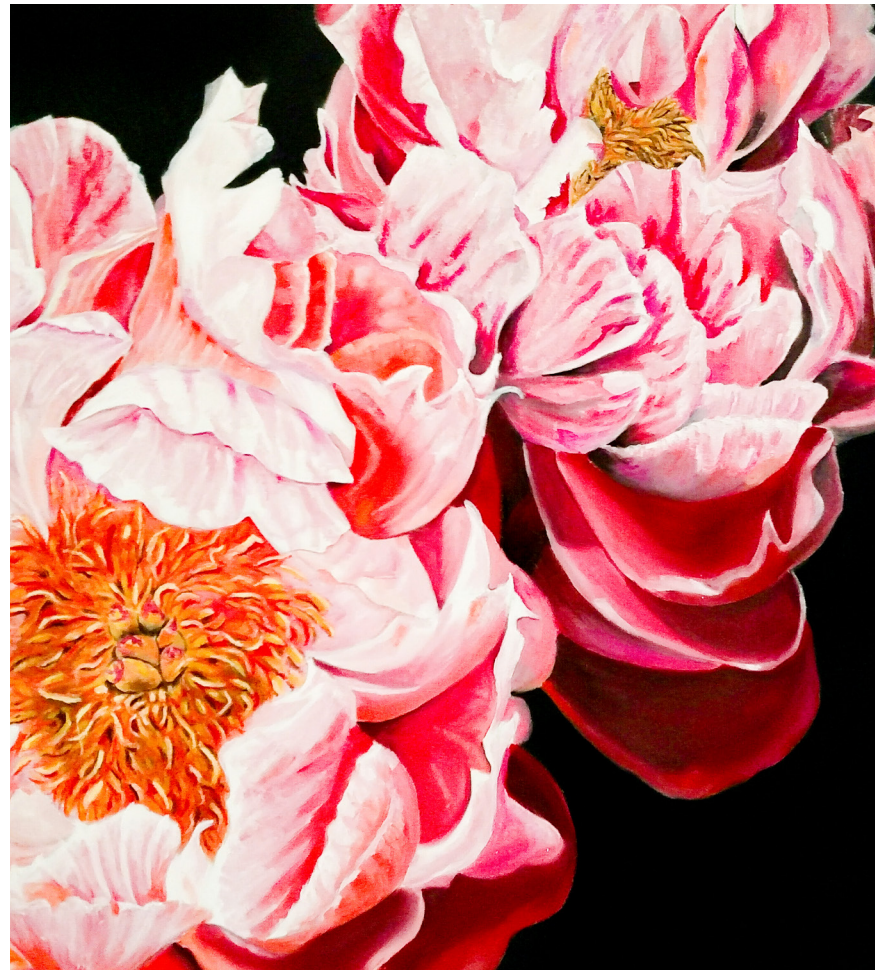


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## ART LOOK

In 2010 I met a friend who asked if I was interested in doing a painting workshop. I did it and was hooked. I took a few courses after that at the Cochise College in Willcox when they still had an art program, and after that I took a workshop here and there. I paint with oil paints and sometimes draw with colored pencils. I like painting as a learning experience.

-Yolanda van der Lelij Klein





## CHARITABLE CREATIVITY

By Taylor Belden

Holiday House is a place community members of Willcox and the surrounding areas go to purchase wonderful handmade crafts, gifts and delicious homemade desserts. Behind the scenes of this event are the amazing women of the Lambda Chi Omega Sorority, Beta chapter. The LCO-Beta, as

they refer to themselves, is the charitable organization behind this exciting annual event and the artistry that goes into it.

### The Women Behind Holiday House

The festive crafts and goodies displayed for sale on an assortment of tables at the Willcox Elks Lodge once a year are crafted by LCO-Beta's own in a unique display of small-town creativity. There are three new members who we talked to; Pam Hestand, Jan Torres, and Karen Taylor. Karen said: "I really

enjoyed this, and before joining the sorority, I always came to Holiday House and enjoyed purchasing and looking at all the handmade crafts."

Karen, Pam, and Jan joined the sorority September 2021, and were able to contribute to the Holiday House crafting and well anticipated baking. "People come for the Bake Shop," states Cori Aten, chairman. "These ladies baked all day. They made about ten batches of divinity, and they made peanut brittle. They are both old family recipes from a former member, who has passed away."

Many of these crafty ideas come from Pinterest, magazines and fellow members. "It depends on the supplies you have. A lot of what we get is donated to us.

We also go to other craft shows and try to pay attention to what is popular. We try to make sure we have those items that are popular, like the trucks and the gnomes." Cori shares.

Holiday House is very special to this marvelous group of ladies because it serves as their chapters sole fundraiser. The money they raise goes to community scholarships; the Sherry Gunter Adams Memorial Scholarship, a \$750 scholarship for graduating seniors or continuing students who are children or grandchildren of active LCO-Beta members, and the Marilyn Parrish Fowler Memorial Scholarship, a \$1,000 scholarship for graduating seniors and continuing students who are not children or grandchildren of LCO-Beta

*"I really enjoyed this, and before joining the sorority, I always came to Holiday House and enjoyed purchasing and looking at all the handmade crafts."*





members, but who went to Willcox High School.

### A Service Sorority

Their charitable work doesn't stop there though! Each January, they gather old sheets, towels and blankets for dog shelter donations. In February, they hold a purse drive where they fill up purses with ladies toiletries to be donated to shelters for women. The annual drive rotates between shelters in Safford, Sierra Vista and Douglas.

In March, they hold a diaper drive for the Willcox Food Pantry. In November, each member brings a new or gently used coat, and they donate it to Coats for Kids at WASA. They also donate regularly to Gifts for Kids around Christmas, the Willcox Food Pantry and the Salvation Army. All of that money comes from the Holiday House!

Want to do some charity work? Consider donating to this wonderful group of ladies! We love the work that they all do for our small community and surrounding areas. Don't forget to stop by next year at the Holiday House!

Interested in Lambda Chi Omega Sorority, Beta chapter?  
Contact Terry Rowden,  
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*The High Desert Palette* welcomes contributions that highlight creativity and creative people in Southeastern Arizona. We seek to explore the creative impulse, showcase creative product and inspire creatives in all fields. Original contributions in artistic and/or creative fields and articles or feature interviews with the people who create them will be accepted. Let us know of creative individuals we might highlight in future issues.

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