

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Las Montañas de Santa Fe*
The Mountains of Holy Faith**

**Woodblock prints by Leon Loughridge
Poetry by John Macker**

July 24 – September 19, 2009

Opening Reception with the Artists: Friday, July 24, 2009, 5 – 7 p.m.

Contact: Maria Hajic, Director, Department of Naturalism

Phone: (505) 954-5719

Fax: (505) 954-5754

Email: mhajic@gpgallery.com

The Gerald Peters Gallery in Santa Fe is pleased to announce the opening of *Los Montañas de Santa Fe* featuring the woodblock prints of Leon Loughridge and the poetry of John Macker. This exhibition is an exploration in woodblock and poetry of the faith and culture that has become enmeshed with the landscape of Northern New Mexico.

The woodblock prints by Leon Loughridge were developed from watercolor and pastel sketches made while exploring the different peaks and churches in the Sangre de Cristo mountain range. After tracing field sketches onto the woodblocks, the reduction process was used to create the prints through repeated cycles of carving, application of a single color to the block, and printing. With each cycle, the print area of the block is reduced. Since the woodblock is destroyed as it is reduced, a print can never be reprinted.

A limited edition book, *Los Montañas de Santa Fe*, accompanies the exhibition. The book was hand printed at Dry Creek Art Press in an edition of thirty with two Printer's Proofs. Illustrations are printed from hand cut woodblocks by Leon Loughridge. Poetry by New Mexico poet John Macker accompanies the prints and serves to interpret these special places. The books are available exclusively through the Gerald Peters Gallery Book Store. Pre-publication pricing is available on pre-paid orders through July 26, 2009.

Raised on a ranch outside Santa Fe, New Mexico, Leon Loughridge was influenced by his grandmother's involvement in northern New Mexico art circles. Further study was undertaken in Santa Fe, Taos and the Colorado Institute of Art in Denver. During his European tour of duty with the US Army, Loughridge studied the Old Masters' techniques with Dieter Kast at the Stuttgart Staatsgalerie, Germany. Today, Loughridge owns Dry Creek Art Press where he utilizes his printmaking skills in reduction woodblocks to produce woodblock prints and limited edition books. Hand printing is accomplished on his collection of antique letterpresses dating from 1885.

John Macker lives in northern New Mexico. He is the author of several books of poetry including *Adventures in the Gun Trade*, *The First Gangster* and *Woman of the Disturbed Earth*. His epic poem, *Wyoming Arcane*, won mad blood magazine's first literary arts award along with a Pushcart Small Press Prize nomination. He has also recorded two cd's of his work.

Diablo Canyon, Reduction woodblock print, Edition of 14, 7 1/2 x 7 1/2 inches

Truchas, Reduction woodblock print, Edition of 16, 7 1/2 x 7 1/2 inches

