

## Capturing the elegance – Marietta Patricia Leis at the Fechin

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There is an intriguing solo exhibition of work by Marietta Patricia Leis on view in the Fechin Studio at the Taos Art Museum at Fechin House, 227 Paseo del Pueblo Norte from Sept. 2 to Oct. 15 with a launch reception and a poetry reading on Sept. 9 from 4 to 6 p.m. The title of the exhibition is "Wood/Metal," emphasizing the harmonious style shared by both Marietta Patricia Leis and Nicolai Fechin.

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Marietta Patricia Leis is a multimedia artist and poet from New Jersey. She is home based in Albuquerque but has lived and worked in Taos, New York City and Los Angeles. Her work is in many public and private collections and has been exhibited all over the world. She's won various awards, grants and artist residencies worldwide, including Edwina and Charles Milner Women in the Arts Award at Western New Mexico University, Silver City. A group of her work was picked up for their permanent collection. Her art is also in the permanent collections of the Fort Smith Convention Center in Arkansas; the Johnson Gallery at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque and the Harwood Museum in Taos.

Leis earned her MFA in studio art from the University of New Mexico. Her work stretches beyond traditional painting to drawings, prints, photography, videos, installations and constructions, and often takes the form of introspective minimal abstractions meant to elicit a sensory, intuitive response.

In her artist's statement, Leis revealed, "My surfaces try to capture the elegance I seek and hold the viewer long enough where they will probe further into the issues that concern me — our beautiful world and its sustainability. Beyond that, I am entrenched in the formal properties of the process — color, edge, space, form and composition. I work until I capture just-the-right note, or rather, the music between the notes."

The curator for the exhibit, Stefan Jennings Batista, revealed "The chosen works highlight each artist's ability to combine two elemental and opposing materials, wood and metal. Presented in the hand-built studio of Nicolai Fechin, Leis's rendered abstract paintings of oil and burnished graphite, minimalist wooden sculptures,

woodcut prints, as well as other works, speak to her love of the delicate grains of trees, living landscapes of color and the reflective strength of the metallic. The connection is drawn to Fechin not just in his artistic identity as the 20th century academic portraitist and landscape painter, but to his borderless creative spirit as a sculptor... Both Leis and Fechin reveal within their work an innate talent to shape from their chosen materials and places, inspired expressive products. Leis' vast global travels have informed her practice and inspired a fusion of her external environments and internal landscapes just as Taos did for Nicolai Fechin a century ago.”

For details about upcoming exhibits at the Taos Art Museum at Fechin House visit **[taosartmuseum.org](https://www.taosartmuseum.org)**.