



Melody Romancito

Marika Choma works on a madonna painting next to the window, trying to take advantage of as much bounce-light as possible from the snow.

# A world of pure energy

*Marika Choma's artistic evolution and commitment deepened in Taos*



IN THE  
STUDIO

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A blank canvas seems like a big zero. There's nothing on it, but saying there is nothing would be jumping to conclusions.

A blank canvas, stretched and gessoed, has the potential to be a painting of anything. To Marika Choma, a blank canvas is where the journey starts.

"I begin with a blank paper or canvas, then a simple form, perhaps a circle, and go from there," Choma says. "Everything else follows quite

naturally once I manage to get myself out of the way! All my work is done this way. The work simply appears and reveals itself. There is no preconceived image."

Choma, a real estate broker besides an artist, has her office, home and studio located in a historic adobe on La Loma. The care she's taken in renovation and restoration is evident the minute you step through the old-fashioned "business name-on-the-glass" central office door. It's a concentration of focus and effort that harks back to a simpler time — one in harmony with the neighborhood and

the time.

Although lined with snow in the middle of January, the postage-stamp sized garden surrounded by glowing, soft adobe walls, hints at the potential of Spring. If the way the house is furnished (a functional aesthetic that bends and accommodates) is any indication this garden must be a haven in warmer weather.

Choma has dedicated a whole room to showing her art, quite large canvases with minimal yet exuberant and harmonious lines, contour drawings embroi-

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Choma's sense of color and movement extend to her personal style and her interior design.

## Studio

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dered with colors and shapes.

"My intention," Choma says, "is to leave the exterior world of object-observation and rendering and enter the world beyond it, a world of pure energy, essence, archetype, symbology and myth, the universal unseen world that holds everything within it."

Born in Europe and raised in New York, Choma explored various forms of creative expression since childhood. She was a ballet dancer with the American Ballet Theatre, singer, actress, advertising illustrator, advertising copywriter, art director, and interior architect and designer.

Choma's career in art began when she stepped up to the plate, creatively, in her early 20s. She came up with a solid visual ad campaign for the Bank of Montreal. From that moment on, Choma found herself involved in the world of advertising and market-



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Choma has dedicated a room for art, which shows off her large canvases, like 'Café Rodeo,' oil on canvas.

ing. At first, the money was attractive, but she said it didn't take her long to figure out she was essentially a glorified draughtsman and decided she needed to make real art.

As a freelance advertising illustrator, she said she experienced a "type of awakening, followed by a pure recommitment to the work."

She said that although she had achieved a certain technical status, she was being taken further and further away from the creative process."

"At some point, when the work and its visual language became 'realized,' I stopped dating my works. This is because at that point, the work ceased to follow any genealogical line and dates did not serve in any way, as reference points for any kind of evolution or development," she says.

And 20 years ago, that artistic evolution brought her to Taos, where she has lived, raised her family and become a real estate broker with her own office, Taos Real Properties. Her

commitment to Taos is as deep as it is to art. And like so many of us, she said she is looking for a way to help bring all of the creative and talented people of Taos together to meet the interesting times ahead.

*Where can you see Marika Choma's work: Online at [www.chomagallery.com](http://www.chomagallery.com) and at her office-gallery by appointment, call (575) 758-4004 or e-mail [contact@chomagallery.com](mailto:contact@chomagallery.com).*