

# Architectural Foundation Gallery: Kathleen Elsey

## INSIDE/OUTSIDE

By ERIN J. SMITH / CASA

**E**NERGETICALLY INFUSED WITH VIBRANT HUES, the recent work of painter Kathleen Elsey explores themes of interior and exterior spaces.

“It’s about moving the inside outside and the outside inside—that’s what we do,” said Elsey, whose solo show *Inside Out* is currently on display at the Architectural Foundation Gallery through April 10th. “It’s like when we go to the beach. We bring pieces of our interior worlds outside, our beach blanket, our chairs, our books...”

Fourteen months ago Elsey conceptualized the show strictly as a series of interior spaces to compliment the Architectural Foundation’s focus on design and built environments. But as she began working through the paintings, Elsey realized that



Kathleen Elsey

it’s not just about inside: “I also like to paint outside where people bring the inside out.” Elsey pointed to her painting *Table In The Oak Grove* as an example, where tables and chairs have been set up outdoors almost like a room in a house. “But,” said Elsey, “the walls around you become the trees.”

The drive to create has been part of Elsey’s life for as long as she can remember. “When I look I see shape and color, and I always see light. It’s what makes me want to paint,” said Elsey. “It’s all about color and light – I could be excited to paint anything.”



Aron’s Room by Kathleen Elsey

Elsey began college as a math major on scholarship at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, but after taking every art elective she could, she ultimately switched to graphic design. “I always wanted to be an artist, but there was no one to tell me how to make a living,” she said. Graphic design seemed to fill the need for working with her hands, and Elsey enjoyed a successful career including owning her own design business. After retiring from graphic design, Elsey has been painting full-time ever since. She also regularly teaches painting workshops locally as well as in Sonoma and in Taos, New Mexico.

“Paintings are recordings of my life. They’re my memories,” she said. “If I see something I have to capture it. I work fast to get the feeling down.” Elsey told a story about a time she was outside painting with a friend where she found

herself painting a light-infused scene despite the gloomy atmosphere outside. When her friend saw Elsey’s painting, her friend said to her, “You see sunshine everywhere!”

Join Elsey at an artist’s reception on Friday, March 6th from 5-7pm at the Architectural Foundation Gallery.



Table In The Oak Grove by Kathleen Elsey

The Gallery is located at 229 E Victoria St at Garden St. Hours are Tues through Fri from 9am-2pm. For more information, call 965-6307 or visit [www.afsb.org](http://www.afsb.org).