

March 1 - April 5, 2024



Interdimensional Threads

Chris Erickson & Claire Wright

**Generously sponsored by Arcos Energy.
Thank you!**

At the Carbondale Arts Gallery
in The Launchpad (76 S 4th Street)
carbondalearts.com | 970-963-1680
Open weekdays 10am - 5pm

About “Interdimensional Threads”

There are threads that connect us all and every choice we make adds another stitch to the tapestry that is this reality as we know it. “Interdimensional Threads” explores the connection between art forms, humans, planet earth, and the past, present and future.

Artists Chris Erickson and Claire Wright, with a shared passion for sustainability and color, weave together a vibrant, multi-dimensional, and multi-functional community space where stories are told about the past, one can sit and be present in the moment, and the work itself provides new life to otherwise potentially discarded materials for a whole new future.

Erickson and Wright use their masterful skills in woodworking, welding, painting, sewing, designing, and upholstering to make functional and useful art that can be enjoyed for many years to come.

Both are artists in the Roaring Fork River Valley but the concept for this show was created when Claire reached out to Chris on none other than Instagram, of course, and was like, “Hey, I love your art and I have an idea.” The rest is interdimensional history.

CHRIS ERICKSON
Carbondale, Colorado

Artist Biography

Chris Erickson is an artist recognized for his captivating use of color through contemporary works that blur the line between sculpture and painting. His art encourages the examination of color as expression and its relationship to human behavior.



Born in Denver, Chris became inspired through city skate culture iconography and the concrete canvas. Yet, finding home in the mountains guided him into an applied art practice—one imbedded in sense of place. His bodies of work are informed through these experiences and expose his ties to graphic design, graffiti art, and fine art techniques. Erickson’s art is often translated through the mediums of spray paint, acrylic, canvas, and panel; although, often merging industrial design and fabrication into his creative process.

Chris continues to execute in a multidisciplinary fashion, which is evident through his recognized “Melting Gondola” sculpture set atop Aspen’s Ajax Mountain. He remains inspired to utilize art as a platform for conversation.

Chris’ series “SuperULTRAmega” is an interpretation of distilling the distracting noise of the modern

technological world into a tenacious display of energy. His mole©ules are a series of character like icons that represent the magnification of various groups and beliefs, often speaking to systemic issues.

Artist Statement

Chris’ work looks to explore the boundaries of genre. While he has no interest in actively participating in the making of graffiti per se, aesthetically, street art pursues themes he finds relevant and worthy of exploration.

More importantly, Chris finds interest in the space where graffiti meets traditional studio painting. The language Chris has worked to develop derives from his upbringing on 80’s skateboard culture and punk rock music.

Fragmented and dissected imagery appropriated from nature influence the structure of the composition and attempt to reveal subtle references to nature while the hard lines and abrupt angles work to provide a structure or framework for which it all exists.

Learn more about Chris:
Instagram: [@chrisericksonart](https://www.instagram.com/chrisericksonart)
Website: ericksonchris.com

CLAIRE WRIGHT
Carbondale, Colorado

Artist Biography

I am “from” many places: born in Iowa, raised in New Mexico, with chosen homes in Southern Spain, the San Juan Islands, and now Carbondale, Colorado. To quote three great women, Parton, Harris, and Ronstadt: “Just a wild mountain rose needing freedom to grow, so I ran fearing not where I’d go. When a flower grows wild it can always survive, wildflowers don’t care where they grow”.

My work is mostly influenced and inspired by that spark of a feeling I get when colors just look so damn good together. Nature has always helped me to feel that feeling, too. I mean, the colors of lichen and moss and wildflowers, am I right?!

My journey into the world of Upholstery has primarily been driven by my need to survive (make money), my desire to thrive (be my own boss), my love for working with my hands (artsy fartsy), and people simply asking me if I can (my ego). I started out many moons ago as a teenager just sewing my own clothes and thus my love for fabric and sewing was born.

The evolution has been natural and fast and wild and fun and everything in between. I now own and operate a full



service Upholstery and Custom Sewing business and offer workshops and monthly DIY nights. Surely you’ve heard of Cosecha Textiles!

Artist Statement

I love working with heavy duty fabrics, using power tools, cleaning up gross shit and making something old into something new again. I love keeping more trash out of the landfill. I love the sculptural element of upholstery. I love the layers that each piece has, and the unique construction and components that lay beneath the pretty surface. It’s all so damn symbolic, isn’t it? There really aren’t any two pieces exactly alike, and the nuance of understanding the deconstruction and reconstruction of each piece is both arduous and fascinating. I have removed and replaced SO MANY staples from wood in my decade of doing this. It certainly has taken its toll on my body.

I care so much about this planet. It creates little pangs in my heart just to think about the beauty and sadness and drama that is this existence, and I have a very privileged white lady life perspective. I often carry the weight of the entire world it seems and I don’t always know what to do with all of that weight. I want to DO something to help. I guess my small contribution has mostly been saving furniture from the landfill and creating community spaces where people can play with their own creativity. Bringing people together is one of my superpowers.

Being in my workshop and allowing the creative process to overtake me, finding the flow state, and thinking and connecting to God is really one of the best things I know to do. I think it is our duty as humans to be as happy, peaceful, and liberated as we can be, and by being that we add our stitch to the great tapestry of life in ways that sparkle and shine and ripple out into the world affecting everyone we meet. I suck at it a lot of the time, but I want to believe we are all just doing our best.

I hope you like my first art show. All the fabric I used in this show is leftover scrap fabric, or salvaged fabrics that might otherwise have gone to the landfill. I hope you touch the pieces and wonder about what's underneath the soft and beautiful surfaces. I hope you get curious about where they came from and where they're going. I hope you sit in on them or squeeze them and just feel fabulous. I hope you imagine if all of it had just become trash instead, and what the ripple effect of that has on our planet when it happens over and over again. I hope it makes you think twice about buying fast furniture and fast fashion. Most of the furniture that is made by places like Ikea and Wayfair are only designed to last about 5 years. When I reupholster a piece with good bones, it should last at least 50.

From a 2022 New York Times article titled 'Fast Furniture Is Cheap. And Americans Are Throwing It in the Trash'; "Each year, Americans throw out more than 12 million tons of furniture, creating mountains of solid waste that have grown 450 percent since 1960, according to the

Environmental Protection Agency." We have to do better, NOW.... But mostly, I hope my work inspires you to feel happy, peaceful, and liberated in some small way.

It's such a vulnerable thing, putting yourself out there like this for people to judge and interpret and decide about. People have always called me an artist my entire life, but I have never really claimed that title. As a new mother and with tenure in my industry, perhaps this is a sort of personal reclamation. In 10 years of doing this work, I have never really made any furniture pieces "just for fun" and I am tired of beige couches (no offense if that's your jam). So, thank you to all the little life choices and people and places along that way that have brought me to this very moment in time, allowing me to be where I am: wild, free, and always growing.

Learn more about Claire:

Instagram: [@cosechadelaide](https://www.instagram.com/cosechadelaide)

Website: cosechatextiles.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

About our Sponsor

“Interdimensional Threads” is generously sponsored by Arcos Energy, a local small business based in Carbondale, CO that provides Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure development and consultation services throughout Colorado and beyond.



Learn more at arcos.energy.

Special thanks to Savanna LaBauve, Leslie Neveu, and Sally Nicholson for gallery preparation assistance, and to Matt Shmigelsky and Chad Steig for install assistance.

About Carbondale Arts

Founded in 1974, Carbondale Arts builds an inclusive and vibrant community through the arts, supporting Carbondale's identity as a place that fosters creativity, collaboration, innovation, and artistic exploration.

Our dedication to this mission has been transformational to the history of Carbondale. We are made possible by volunteers, the generosity of our sponsors and community partners, collaborations with fellow non-profits, schools, local and state governments, and businesses.

Know Your Artist, Know Your Art

Carbondale Arts believes in the power of art and we know you do, too. There is a deep connection that happens when you purchase a piece of art, and getting to know the artist makes that connection even deeper. Carbondale Arts hosts over 10 art exhibitions every year. Find some art you love and dive in.

Gallery Committee Members

Staff: Jamie Abbott, Brian Colley, Staci Dickerson

Non-staff: Savanna LaBauve (chair), Leslie Neveu, Marilyn Lowey, Nichole O'Neil, Sally Nicholson, Elliot Norquist, Marina Skiles (Carbondale Arts Board Liaison), and Laura Stover

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Carbondale Arts

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