



PRESS RELEASE

the ART BASE, 174 Midland Ave, BASALT, CO 81621

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The Art Base presents: *Wild Life* by Leah Potts

Generously sponsored by Casey Concrete

July 2 – July 31, 2021

Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 11am-5pm, Friday-Saturday, 11am-7pm

Opening Reception: Friday, July 2, 5-7pm

The Art Base is pleased to present the first solo exhibition of Aspen artist Leah Potts, entitled *Wild Life*. The exhibition will feature nearly 50 watercolor paintings of animals. Potts' original cards and prints will also be available. She says, "The pure elegance of nature's palette, textures and wildlife has become a constant source of inspiration for my watercolor paintings." This exhibition will be on view through Saturday, July 31st.

In 1999, Potts was paralyzed from the chest down in a debilitating ski accident. Since that time, with unimaginable courage, tenacity and resilience, Potts has focused on her rehabilitation and rebuilding her life. Part of that recovery, almost 20 years after the accident, meant rediscovering art, painting and creativity. Six years ago, Potts connected with the Art Base and was awarded a scholarship for a two-week painting class. The experience was a catalyst, and she has re-learned how to paint with her non-dominant hand, which she says "frees her brush strokes, giving a blend of realism and impressionistic style that allows her to capture the spirit of the animal." Potts has evolved to become a successful professional painter and continues to take classes at the Art Base. Curator Lissa Ballinger says, "Leah's personal story is remarkable, but independent of that, her watercolors are sympathetic and extraordinarily well crafted. Her animal portraits reveal the very nature and personality of these animals." Potts says: "The spirit of the animal fills my heart and inspires me through the tough times, pushing me through the struggle."

The Art Base is a nonprofit community arts center located in Basalt, Colorado. Through education, exhibitions, and events they foster creative expression in the visual arts for all ages and abilities. Education programs are designed to be accessible to everyone and encourage creative expression

and lifelong learning through arts workshops and outreach programs in partnership with local nonprofits and Basalt schools. Exhibitions focus on opportunities for solo, group, and guest-curated exhibitions for Colorado-based artists, with an emphasis on those living in the Roaring Fork Valley.
www.theartbase.org