



# Valley of Creativity

Slow down, wander, and discover the North Valley Studio Tour.

Sep. 02, 2026

Updated Sep. 03, 2026

BY **SPONSOR CONTENT: NORTH VALLEY STUDIO TOUR**

**"Handel Leaf Desk"** (Permanent Collection of Oscar Mayer Corp.) by **Mark Levin-Location #1**

**THERE'S A UNIQUE MAGIC** to Albuquerque's North Valley. Life moves at a gentler rhythm—slower and more intentional. Towering cottonwoods arch over winding roads, while the scent of piñon and roasted chile lingers from backyard kitchens and roadside stands. Peaceful and thoughtful, it transforms for one weekend in September into a living gallery of creativity and community that will take your breath away.

This fall, art lovers are invited to wander off the beaten path and discover the creative spirit of one of Albuquerque's most distinctive neighborhoods. The **North Valley**

**Studio Tour** returns Saturday, September 19, and Sunday, September 20. Now in its fourth year, this cherished tradition is a choose-your-own-adventure experience, with the artists themselves at the heart of the tour. Visitors can explore at their own pace, stepping inside the intimate spaces of 46 artists across 20 studios, where art fosters conversation and can be purchased directly from their makers.

From seasoned collectors to early holiday shoppers, there is something for everyone. Participating artists represent a diverse range of mediums, including painting, sculpture, jewelry, ceramics, fiber arts, photography, and mixed media.



"October Acequia" by Cynthia Wister.

Beyond the studio visits, the weekend highlights a vibrant ecosystem of support. The tour is championed by local businesses and art advocates who believe in the power of connection.

“The North Valley Studio Tour is about more than art,” says Colleen Constance Franco, marketing lead and board member. “It’s about opening studio doors and inviting people to experience the unique energy and sense of place that makes this valley so special.”

By Sunday evening, tour maps are often softened and scribbled with notes for future gifts or commissions. As golden light filters through the cottonwoods, guests return home with more than just artwork; they gain a renewed sense of place and a spark of their own inspiration.

Sometimes all it takes is a curious heart, a good map, and a willingness to see what beauty waits just around the bend. It is a reminder that the best getaways are often the ones you don't have to leave town to find.

The celebration begins with a preview show at North 4th Arts Center (4904 Fourth St. NW). Running from August 31 through September 18, the exhibition allows visitors to view highlights from participating artists before planning their route. Join the North Valley Studio Tour for the opening reception on September 12, from 2 to 4 p.m., where tour maps will be available on-site.



Colorful handmade ceramics by Liz Fritzsche.

From there, grab your studio map and spend the weekend exploring artist studios. Start your Saturday morning early at the **Los Ranchos Growers' Market** one of New Mexico's most treasured community traditions, and wander through the **Los Ranchos Art Market**, celebrating 35 years of supporting local artists and makers.

Grab a cup of coffee, enjoy breakfast from a local vendor, visit friends and neighbors, and take home something handcrafted before the studio tour begins at 10 a.m.

All events are free and open to the public.

For studio locations, participating artists, and details on the local sponsors that make this event possible—including recommendations for places to eat, drink, and shop—visit [northvalleystudiotour.com](http://northvalleystudiotour.com).

Subscribe to our [email list](#) and follow the North Valley Studio Tour on Facebook ([@NorthValleyStudioTour](#)) and Instagram ([@northvalleystudiotour](#)).

As a special thank you, all subscribers will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win an original piece of work by one of our tour artists, adding another layer of inspiration to your weekend adventure.

**A Weekend to Slow Down, Wander, and Discover the North Valley Studio Tour**

**September 19 & 20 | 10 a.m.–5 p.m.**