

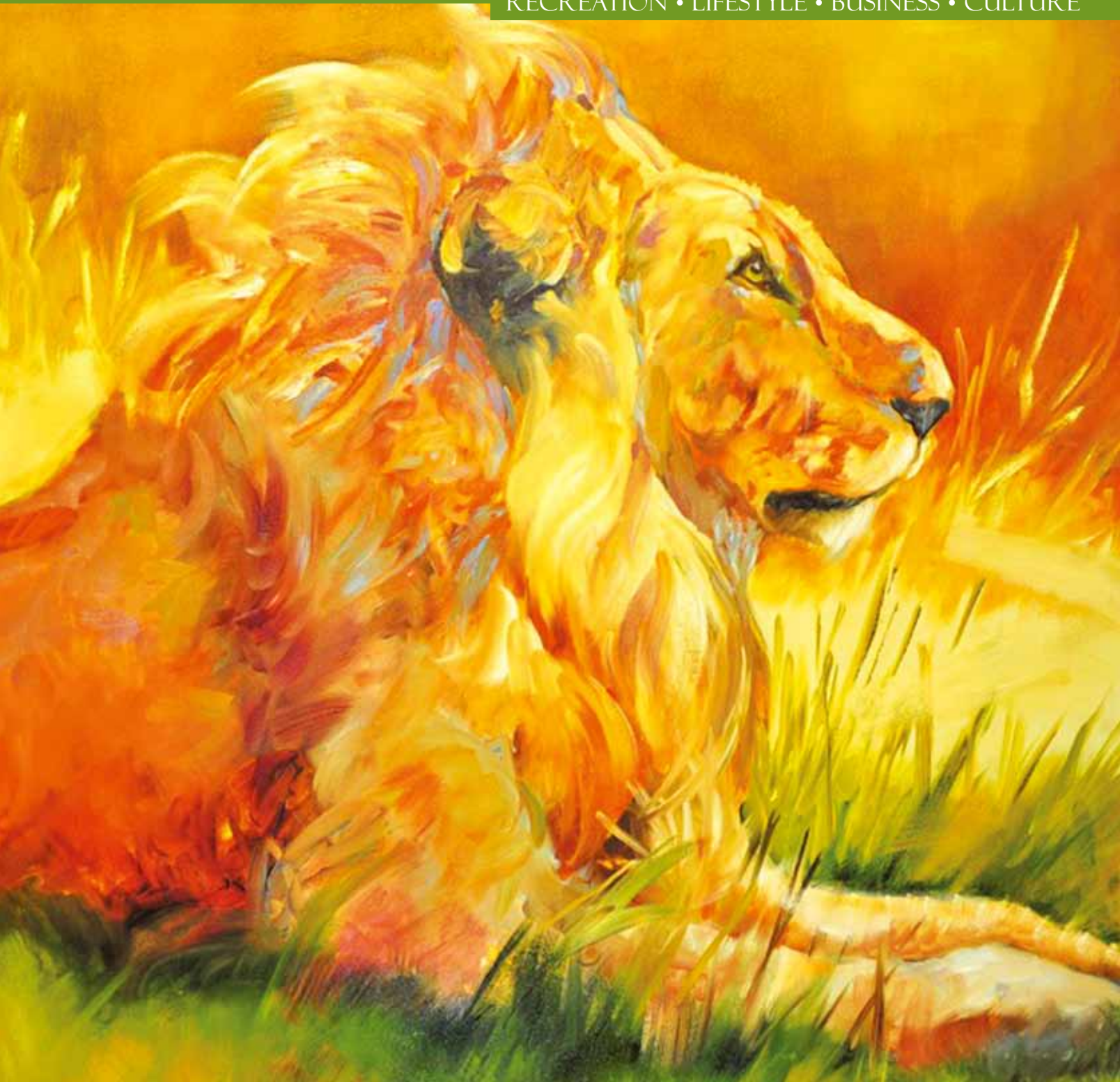
WINTER 2011

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GREAT LAKES AIRLINES

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CREATE YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE

at Telluride's "Ah Haa School for the Arts"



Text and photos provided by Ah Haa School for the Arts

What happens when you take a destination resort and combine it with an art getaway? You get the latest brainchild of Telluride's venerated Ah Haa School for the Arts: the art immersion getaway.

With the increased popularity of art excursions to exotic settings, Ah Haa's small but devoted staff had to wonder why their own town – a tiny gem known for its skiing, hiking and diverse festivals – couldn't be a shoo-in destination for art instruction as well.

So, starting in 2011, the twenty-something, much treasured and celebrated art school will begin offering tailor-made portions of art in what Director Rachel Loomis-Lee calls "a total immersion experience."

Students will have a chance to nibble or gorge on a seasonal core curriculum of painting, pastels, photography or ceramics in a block system that encourages deeper connections between students and teachers, and between classroom, creative expression and daily life.

What might a week of art immersion in the scenic San Juan Mountains consist of? Maybe finally learning how to use that digital camera (as aspens do their fall magic). Or back-to-back encaustic workshops to end a spell of painter's doldrums. Or a pastel class with a popular teacher committed to having both initiates and practiced artists smiling by the end of his class.

And if you've never been to Telluride, once quoted in Time Magazine as "about the most beautiful place on the planet," should you wait another year? Absolutely not, says Loomis-Lee, "The depth and breadth of our classes is truly amazing for a community this size. Whether you have a few hours, a few days or a few weeks, you will find a class that nurtures your inner artist."

At the same time, the outer artist will be nurtured as well, with all the amenities the Ah Haa School has to offer: its home in the historic Depot Building situated along the banks of the San Miguel River; its nationally known visiting artists and instructors like David Aguirre, Kent Harris, Bruce Gomez, Rebecca Crowell and Shawna Moore; the newly remodeled on-site Daniel Tucker gallery with its monthly exhibitions; and the summer hum of its popular children's four-day summer camps and Fabulous Fridays.

The town and surrounding area also offer surprising depth and breadth for a community of its size. Not only are the outdoor enthusiasts happy at the end of the day, Telluride also delivers plenty of side orders:



history to buffs, books to readers, yarn to knitters, flies to fishermen, dining to foodies, elk to shutterbugs, mountain passes to jeepers and music to junkies.

The staff admits to capitalizing on the charm and beauty of their small town. But the real focus will be in delivering a delicious, substantial and satisfying art curriculum to anyone interested, from toddler to senior and novice to expert. Loomis-Lee adds, "As we explain in our catalog: Ah Haa is the sound of inspiration, surprise, awareness and awakening, the sound of learning new skills, new knowledge, new experience. What we're doing now is creating an environment where this sound is even more likely to be heard." **R&P**

For more information please contact us at 970.728.3886 or visit our web site at www.ahhaa.org.