

A Passion for Antiques

By Kelly Skeen



Stephen Etre



Stephen's A Consignment Gallery, the oldest consignment shop in Santa Fe, celebrates its 35th anniversary this year. In 1986, the gallery transitioned from an auction house to a retail consignment gallery when it moved to its current location at 2701 Cerrillos Road. Stephen's Gallery contains 13,000 sq. ft. of artwork, antiques, furniture, decorative art, mid-century modern art, Native American art, designer jewelry, sterling silver and vintage Mexican silver and art. "We're different from other galleries because of our diversity; you just never know what you're going to find here," says owner and founder Stephen Etre. "What I can guarantee is variety, quality and value."

Etre knows his business; he started flipping antiques as a "Picker"—someone who buys and sells independently to dealers or shops—when he was 18-years-old, and put himself through college with his profitable hobby. "I would go to auctions three nights a week," says Etre of his early picking days. "I'd pick up small things, take them back to my dorm room to polish or fix, and then sell them to dealers." Etre continues: "If you're a good picker, you know what people want and what will sell."

You may feel like a picker yourself as you hunt through the many gallery rooms at Stephen's, discovering rare artifacts, Indonesian woodcarvings, classical European antiquities, unique sculpture and outdoor furniture. Etre and his key staff have over 150 years combined experience in the antique/consignment business, including an extensive knowledge in the secondary art market. The staff is friendly and welcoming, ready to assist you on a hunt to find the perfect items for your home or office.

In the mid-1980s, Etre began to focus more on fine art as the business switched to a retail consignment gallery. Since that time, the gallery has gained a consistent presence in the secondary art market by handling important works by Alexander Calder, Zuniga, Tamayo, and Native American as well as New Mexican historic and contemporary artists. This diverse and extensive collection sets Stephen's apart from other consignment/antique shops in Santa Fe.

As a longtime collector, Etre has amassed a stellar collection of art—both historic and contemporary - at the gallery and, as a result, has a devoted following of collectors. In addition to consignment sales, Stephen's offers personal property appraisals as well as on-site estate sales throughout the year. You can keep up to date with the many ongoing events at Stephen's by checking their calendar and website. The shop is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. ■

Stephen's A Consignment Gallery
2701 Cerrillos Rd.
505.471.0802
StephensConsignments.com

