

Mobile photography project will visit Ruidoso, Carrizozo and Alamogordo

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Visitors bring a small object of personal significance and sit for a black and white photo portrait while holding the object



(Photo: Courtesy/E Pluribus Unum)

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Since 2010, the Axle Contemporary mobile gallery and project space has brought the best of New Mexico's contemporary art to people across the state in many exhibitions and other projects.

In 2012, the Axle artist-collaborators, Jerry Wellman and Matthew Chase-Daniel, began a photographic portrait project, E Pluribus Unum. This ongoing biennial project enlivens and documents communities throughout the state, with a mobile photographic portrait studio built inside the vintage aluminum Axle vehicle.

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- At the close of the project, Axle Contemporary Press will publish a book containing all of the portraits

The name comes from the Latin phrase, "Out of many, one."

Participation is free to all. Visitors bring a small object of personal significance, and enter the mobile studio and sit for a black and white photo portrait while holding the object. The objects brought are as diverse as the participants. Objects have included car keys, photos of loved ones on cell phones, artworks, tools, books, food, toys, and vintage collectibles.

Three copies of each portrait are immediately printed with the gallery's solar-powered printer. One is given to the participant, another is pasted to the exterior of the vehicle, creating a mobile and growing exhibition throughout the span of the project. The third print will later be included in an exhibition in a regional museum or art center. At the close of the project Axle Contemporary Press will publish a book containing all of the portraits, and one image on the cover blending all off the hundreds of portraits into one face, representing the entirety of the community of participants.

Previous iterations of this project took place in Santa Fe in 2012, in Albuquerque in 2014, and on the Navajo Nation in 2014. Information and images can be seen at <https://www.axleart.com/epu>



Some of the subjects who have posed for the project are on the vehicle. (Photo: Courtesy/E Pluribus Unum)

This October, E Pluribus Unum: New Mexico Southeast, will take place in the communities of Roswell, Lovington, Hobbs, Alamogordo, Tularosa, Carrizozo, Ruidoso, Lincoln, Carlsbad, Artesia, Portales, and Clovis. Schedule updates will be posted at www.axleart.com

At a time to be announced, Sunday, Oct. 14, the studio will stop at the Tularosa Basin Museum of History, 1004 N White Sands Blvd, Alamogordo, followed the morning of Oct. 15, at New Mexico State University, 2400 N Scenic Dr, Alamogordo and from 1 pm. to 4 p.m., at Twice Blest, 2920 North White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo.

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 16, the mobile studio will be at Tulie Freeze, 419 St Francis Dr, Tularosa, and from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at MoMAZoZo, 503 12th St, Carrizozo.

Frp, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Oct. 17, the mobile studio will be at Sacred Grounds Coffee and Tea House, 2704 Sudderth Dr, Ruidoso, with stops in Lincoln and Tinnie in the afternoon.