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**“CERULEAN DAYS”  
NEW PAINTINGS OF THE GREAT BASIN BY PHYLLIS SHAFER  
AT STREMMEL GALLERY**

Exhibition dates: Oct. 20 – Nov. 19, 2011  
Reception: Thursday, Oct. 20, 2007, 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Open to the public.

On Thursday, October 20 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, Stremmel Gallery will host an opening reception for South Lake Tahoe artist, Phyllis Shafer. Shafer’s exhibition of new paintings, entitled “Cerulean Days,” are observations from her personal explorations of the rugged Great Basin area, including the Ruby Mountains, Lamoille Canyon and Lake Tahoe. The show will continue through November 19.

The Lake Tahoe resident and plein-air painter creates poetic, compelling works of the inspiring landscapes she studies. “I see and feel the narrative possibilities in nature and read them as a metaphor for the human condition,” notes Shafer. Working in the field, she finds patterns in her subjects both up close and far, using exaggerated perspective to create a heightened contrast between fore- and background. Shafer says, “There’s no innovation that occurs in the studio. For me, the whole conception occurs from being out there in a certain place and letting it speak to me”. Through her intuitive process of painting, she distills the essence and vital rhythms that animate her subject matter. Her use of intensified spatial extremes addresses “the relationship between ‘world’ and ‘self’” and the kind of transcendental qualities that lie at the heart of all natural forms and objects.

After receiving a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1988, Phyllis Shafer continued to exhibit her work and teach part-time in the San Francisco Bay Area. In 1994, she moved to Lake Tahoe, a place that deepened her interest in the natural world and the metaphorical possibilities it provides for painting subjects. For her fourth, solo exhibition at Stremmel Gallery, Shafer focuses on the Nevada/Great Basin landscape. Traveling throughout Nevada and painting on site, her work captures rhythms, vitality, and unique idiosyncrasies of the western landscape.

Shafer has shown widely throughout the region, including Sacramento’s Crocker Museum and the Nevada Museum of Art. In 2006 she was invited to participate in an exhibition at the Autry National Center in Los Angeles, entitled “Yosemite: Art of an American Icon, Part II: 1970-Present.” Her works may be found in numerous private and public collections, including the Nevada Museum of Art.

On Thursday, October, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, the public is invited to the reception to meet the artist and view her work. Stremmel Gallery is located at 1400 S. Virginia Street. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, and Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm. For more information, contact Stremmel Gallery at 786-0558.

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