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HOME & LIVING IN THE *western san juans*

Across the Threshold  
A Revealing Facade  
Fire-Wise Landscaping  
The Black Swifts Conundrum  
These Morels Have Stories  
Sweet Freedom on Wheels  
Above It All: The Madeline



BY SAMANTHA TISDEL WRIGHT

# Across the Threshold

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A door painted by Telluride artist Brooke Einbender beckons on the Valley Floor like a surreal portal to a new dimension. Einbender is a featured artist and presenter at Telluride Art + Architecture 2022. (Photo by Nathan Rist)



# Telluride's Creative Reemergence at Art + Architecture Week



After a two-year pandemic pause, Telluride Art + Architecture returns refreshed and transformed this summer season with a week-long celebration of local creative expression and architectural design.

Presented by Telluride Arts from July 11-17, the immersive event brings back everything its aficionados have grown to love over the past 10 years — and have sorely missed during the pandemic.

There will be in-person tours of beautifully designed homes. Collaborative art installations. Creative cuisine from the best local chefs. Wine tastings and other libations. Plus, an expanded calendar of events for both art lovers and residential design enthusiasts, guaranteed to expand the spirit and bend the mind.

As we push open the collective doors we've been sheltering behind for the past two years, there is a new sense of sweetness in this whole endeavor.

"We've missed each other," said Telluride Arts executive director Kate Jones. "We've missed exploring the beautiful homes in our community and giving painters, musicians, chefs, winemakers, brewers, poets, actors and artists of all kinds, the opportunity to connect with each other and the community in this unique context."

## AN INSTANT HIT

Telluride Arts, a local nonprofit arts council charged with nurturing Telluride's arts scene, launched Art + Architecture a decade ago as a way to celebrate the richness and depth of Telluride's artistic community (and connect local talent with potential patrons) through home and studio tours, food and wine tastings, presentations and performances.

The event was an instant hit, gaining momentum and dovetailing with Telluride's 2013 designation as a Colorado Creative District, and with the creation of the Telluride Arts District.

As Telluride Art + Architecture evolved, it began to place more emphasis on collaborations. Instead of offering separate home and studio tours, and food and wine tastings in local restaurants, elaborate home and "alternative venue" tours comprised the much-anticipated centerpiece of the event, with up to 10 locations featured over a whirlwind weekend.

In each place, a multifaceted team comprised of architects and designers, craftspeople and contractors, chefs and beverage professionals, artists and performers, would work together to create a memorable, site-specific experience for guests.

## A BITE-SIZED HOME TOUR

While the schedule of events at A+A now extends over an entire week, the popular Home Tour returns on a somewhat smaller scale this year, with four homes featured over the course of a single afternoon on Sunday, July 17.

The experience couldn't be easier or more fun. Leave the car at home, jump on the Telluride Express Home Tour Shuttle from either downtown Telluride or Mountain Village (with five departure times to choose from) and get chauffeured from house to house by your complementary designated driver.

Each stop along the way offers a magical alchemy of architecture, design, ephemeral one-of-a-kind art installations featuring the work of local and regional artists, tasty tidbits of the performing arts — from dance, to theater, to poetry — and delicious "small bites" created and plated by some of Telluride's top chefs and caterers (Angelee Aurillo, Patrick Laguens, Counter Culture and others), paired with wines curated by beverage director Oulli Durham of Mountain Village's new wine bar, Communion.

Featured homes include:

- Loft House 101 at Transfer, a high-end, short-term rental in Telluride's Warehouse District designed by CCY Architects of Basalt with an art collection from Slate Gray Gallery;
- A 5,700-square-foot single family residence with an open plan and soaring mountain views in Aldasora Ranch, designed by Peter Lundeen of FUSE Architecture + Interior;
- Steeprock Joinery, a rarely-glimpsed artist retreat built into the red rock cliffs above Sawpit with a hike-in option;
- The recently renovated riverside residence of architect-and-interior-designer power couple Steve Morton and Kimille Taylor in Placerville.

The Taylor/Morton home comes with a particularly compelling backstory. Built in 1992 and designed by architect James Bowen, the charismatic 2,200-square-foot postmodern home was profiled by journalist Tim McKeough in *The New York Times* (and is also featured on Taylor's interior design website if you'd like to take a sneak peak).

As McKeough tells it, the couple met and fell for each other in 2013, while working together to transform a former church in Telluride into a private residence. A particularly picturesque riverside house always caught their eye whenever they drove through Placerville, and they wondered what it was like inside. When the house came on the market in 2018, they jumped at the opportunity to buy it, and embarked on a renovation and redesign odyssey together. A+A guests will have the rare chance to inspect the results of those efforts.

Guests are free to explore each featured home on the tour at their own pace, catching a later shuttle if they choose to linger, rather than sticking with a particular tour group for the entire afternoon.

"There will be something for everybody, from really unique and hand-crafted to very modern and contemporary," A+A

Patron Pass holders will have the opportunity to attend a patron party at Mt. Mez, an Aldasoro residence designed by One Architects of Telluride. The architects also worked with the owners to do the interior design. (Photo by Joshua Johnson)



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Director Ann Hurley Barker said. “While the homes are diverse, the one thing they have in common is the celebration of great design.”

### **WELCOME TO THE UNKNOWN ZONE**

The pared-down scale of the home tour has opened up time and space to explore strange new worlds at A+A this year, as art moves into the virtual realm of non-fungible tokens.

Bring all your questions about NFTs — how to create and market them, how to purchase and enjoy them, how to leverage them as an art philanthropist, how to

understand what the heck they are — to a series of enlightening sessions with artist Brooke Einbender (a.k.a. “Mindbender Art”) and NFT collector Ash Cooper Kerns on July 12, 13, and 16.

Fresh off of Art Basel, TEDxVail, and an artist residency in Ophir, Einbender is Telluride’s “It Artist” for all things digital: AR, VR, XR, NFTs, projection mapping, video, you name it. She brims with enthusiasm for the medium, and the doors it has opened for her as an artist since she moved to Telluride in 2019.

“I always saw my paintings as portals that I wanted to jump into, and explore every facet of their colorful

dimension,” Einbender said. She discovered the magic of virtual reality as an emerging artist and entrepreneur while she was living in New York after college, and realized she wanted to expand her paintings into the 3D virtual space to become immersive simulations.

Einbender’s first gallery show in Telluride, dubbed the Unknown Zone, opened in the fateful month of March 2020. It featured colorful, bold, abstract paintings overlaid with “augmented reality” that allowed viewers to use their cell phones as virtual portals to journey through the inter-spatial dimensions of each painting.

When the pandemic lockdown slammed



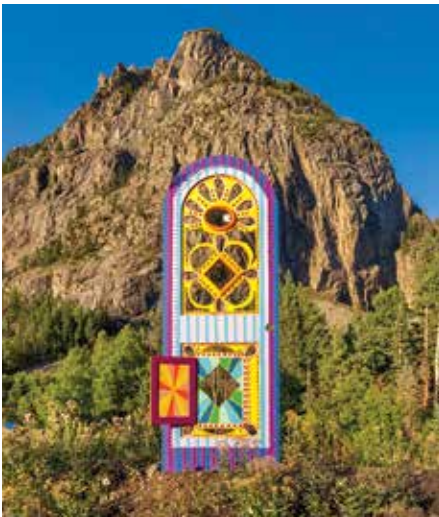
Top: Mt. Mez features a quintessential modernist design with open volumes, clean lines, and sweeping views of meadows and mountains. (Photo by Joshua Johnson)

Below: Einbender at work during her artist residency in Ophir last summer. Her Unknown Zone project bridges physical art with virtual experiences and NFTs. (Photos by Kyle Wavra)



“Doors represent the duality of open and closed, light and dark. People’s lives were shut down in unknown ways but also, you know, beautiful transformations were happening.”

– Brooke Einbender



the door shut on her exhibition after just two weeks, Einbender found her way into a new dimension of the Unknown Zone after stumbling across a post for “free doors” on the Telluride Sweet Deals Facebook page.

“I began meditating on the metaphors of doors and what they represent in the times of Covid,” she said. “All these private moments and transformations that are happening behind closed doors at a global scale. Doors represent the duality of open and closed, light and dark. People’s lives were shut down in unknown ways but also, you know, beautiful transformations were happening.”

Einbender’s own pandemic transformation involved a fall and a concussion, a job loss, a promise to herself to become a full-time artist, and a deep dive into the realm of cryptocurrency, Web3/blockchain technology, and the new, sometimes lucrative opportunities this space holds for artists through NFTs.

In the physical realm, meanwhile, she began collecting doors.

“I would go and pick them up. And then people started catching on and they would actually bring doors to my studio,” she said. “It became this beautiful community interaction where each door I collected was a human connection in my life.”

Last summer, Einbender picked up her paint brushes and bought some power tools (with the help of an artist grant from Telluride Arts) and set out to transform her door collection into a large public art installation during a two-month residency at the Silver Bell Mine and Mill near Ophir.

She installed some of the transformed doors outdoors, immersed in nature, and suspended others by steel cables inside the ruined mill. “At night when the sun went down, I had rainbow-changing LED lights that were illuminating every door. And it was just a really beautiful, magical experience,” she said.

Three doors found their way into a

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Steepprock Joinery, a handcrafted artist retreat, clings to a cliffside above Sawpit. The A+A tour of the home will incorporate the work of artists who have found inspiration there. A+A guests can either hike in, or take a 4x4 shuttle courtesy of Telluride Outside. (Photos by Isabel Harcourt)



permanent art installation at Camp V in the high desert country near Naturita.

Einbender currently sells “digital twins” of her door art as NFTs, and offers some of the physical doors for sale as well. In this way, she has found a new way to bridge the gap between the physical and virtual world with her art. “Every door harnesses the energy of lived experiences behind it,” she said.

Einbender has also been collaborating with Telluride photographers to photograph each of her doors in beautiful natural settings, creating a photo collection of “Telluride portals”. These photos will be available for viewing and purchase

during Telluride Art + Architecture Week.

Einbender’s vision for the Unknown Zone keeps growing, with a longterm goal to create a global public art project featuring door installations with an AR component on every continent. A portion of sales from NFTs and mini 3D replicas of the doors would go back to a social cause tied to the land of each installation.

“It’s a way to use these cutting edge technologies to bring us back down to earth and create direct impact,” she said. “And for me, it’s a way to help fund my work, by selling these digital doors, and then installing the physical ones in the form of public art.”

In the meantime, as part of A+A’s new ArtTrails experience, Einbender will install a trail of doors along the 2.2-mile Boulevard Trail in Mountain Village, all the way from Highway 145 to the Mountain Village Core. The installation will remain in place through September.

“This is just the beginning,” Einbender said. “It will be really cool to see how this project evolves.”

#### **GREAT BOOKS + TURNTABLE + DEPARTURES + MORE**

Also new at A+A this year, architect Tom Kundig joins journalist John Gendall for

Top: The Transfer Warehouse in Telluride brims with art installations and inspiring events during Art + Architecture week. (Courtesy photo)

Below: A rough-hewn spiral staircase winds around a tree trunk inside Steeprock Joinery. (Photo by Isabel Harcourt)



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– Kate Jones,  
Telluride Arts Executive Director

the global launch of Gendall’s new design book, *Rocky Mountain Modern* (on sale June 28, published by Monacelli Press).

Gendall knows his stuff; he writes for a variety of high-profile publications from *Architectural Digest* to the *New Yorker*, teaches architectural communication at Pratt Institute, and holds a Master in Design Studies with Distinction from Harvard’s Graduate School of Design.

His new book sheds light on the most stunning modern residences across the Rocky Mountains, a region with an intriguingly rich history of modernist design, and explores how a new generation of modernist architects like Kundig

are incorporating the natural world into their work.

Kundig and Gendall converge at the Transfer Warehouse for a lively discussion about all things architecture at a free author reception on Thursday, July 14 from 3-5 p.m. The Transfer is an apt venue for their conversation. Telluride Arts recently commissioned Kundig to help the restoration and transformation of the rugged roofless ruin into an adaptable indoor-outdoor venue where creativity can flourish in the heart of Telluride for generations to come.

A separate, more intimate author reception and wine tasting just for A+A

Patrons and ticket holders will be held earlier that day at the Madeline Hotel in Mountain Village.

The theme of Great Books expands into Telluride’s beloved indie bookshop, *Between the Covers*, where A+A guests can discover other “not just for the coffee table” books that inspire dreaming about architecture and design. Check in with *Between the Covers* for up-to-the-minute information about author events held there throughout A+A week.

Art and music converge at Turn-Table, a new A+A event for vinyl lovers at the Transfer Warehouse on Friday, July 15 from 6-9 p.m. that explores the story

At the newly renovated Taylor/Morton home in Placerville, interior finishes in a palette of white paint and natural wood set off artistic statements like a designer dining table made of melted waste material. The Taylor/Morton residence, dubbed Riverhouse for its location along the shores of the San Miguel, is on the cover of this issue of Shelter. (Photos by Emily Redfield)



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behind a particular (yet to be disclosed at press time) piece of album cover art.

“We hope to have the artist or someone associated with the design of the album cover,” Hurley Barker said. Guests will also enjoy “lyric-inspired small bites,” libations, and a live performance featuring music from the selected album.

A+A programming up at Mountain Village has expanded dramatically this year, too, from Einbender’s mind bending doors installation, to exclusive Patron and Passholder events at the Madeline Hotel, to a five-night series of artist receptions at Communion.

Here, guests can taste fine wines

and commune with local and regional artists whose work is featured in the Cabins Public Art Installation, a collaboration between Telluride Mountain Village Owners Association, the Town of Mountain Village and Telluride Arts that transformed 11 repurposed gondola cabins into vinyl-wrapped works of art (and socially distanced dining rooms) during the pandemic. The cabins can be seen throughout Heritage, Village Pond, Reflection and Sunset plazas.

Also new this year, A+A is launching an Industry Partners Day on Friday, July 15, with a Fast Pitch at The Madeline from 3-4 p.m. followed by a Meet

& Greet reception. Vendors will range from a natural stone supplier to a Colorado company that specializes in oxygenating high-altitude homes to simulate a lower elevation and prevent acute mountain sickness. The event is primarily an opportunity for networking among industry partners, but A+A guests are also welcome to attend, connect, and glean new ideas for their homes.

Saturday night brings back the popular Science of Cocktails event at the Transfer Warehouse, a collaboration between Telluride Arts and the Pinhead Institute.

In lieu of closing out the week with the traditional awards ceremony, this year’s





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– Ann Hurley Barker,  
A+A Director

## TICKETS, PASSES AND PATRON PERKS

Tickets for Telluride Art + Architecture 2022 are offered at three levels: an all-inclusive Patron Pass at \$600 per person; a Weekend Pass for \$225 per person; and a Single Day Home Tour pass for \$110 per person. A la carte tickets for some events will also be offered at price points ranging from \$30 to \$60.

Capped at just 400 guests, A+A is an intimate affair compared to many of Telluride’s summer happenings.

“We’re hoping people will really embrace the whole event by going with a Weekend Pass or a Patron Pass,” Hurley Barker said.

Special perks for Patron Pass holders include a Patron Party on Thursday night at Mt. Mez, a beautiful Aldosoro residence designed by One Architects of Telluride; a patrons-only presentation on Non-fungible Tokens for Collectors on Wednesday evening; and the Lumier Patron Coffee prior to the Home Tour on Sunday morning.

Visit [tellurideartandarchitecture.com](http://tellurideartandarchitecture.com) for a complete, up-to-date schedule of events, tickets and pass information.

grand finale on Sunday evening at the Transfer gets amped up with DepARTure, a celebration of all of the artists who have participated in A+A during the week. Weekend Pass holders and Patrons are invited, and the public can buy tickets too.

### FAMILY FRIENDLY STUFF

While many of the main events at A+A are reserved for the 21-and-over crowd (because alcohol), there’s plenty of family-friendly stuff to do during the week, too.

Bring along your budding artists to build a hands-on public art installation at Elks Park. Bundle them up for a spe-

cial edition of Mountain Village’s Movies on the Green. Or grab a water bottle and corral the kids to experience ArtTrails on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. In addition to Einbender’s installation along the Boulevard Trail, hikers will find the Idarado Legacy Trail (which is assessible to all) bursting with creative surprises all the way from Town Park to Pandora.

Saturday morning will also be a great time to get out with the family for the Historic Walking Tour offered by the Telluride Historical Museum, and teach the next generation of Telluridians about the rich architectural heritage of the town — a heritage that continues to evolve.

### NEXT STEPS

Ten years after it all began, Telluride Art + Architecture planners pause at this threshold — looking forward, looking back, taking stock of their collaborative journey thus far — and step into the uncertainty of how this year’s event will ultimately unfold. Anything could happen. But one thing’s for sure.

“Between the artists and the chefs and everything, it’s going to be wonderful,” Hurley Barker said. “People are going to love it.”

Visit [tellurideartandarchitecture.com](http://tellurideartandarchitecture.com) for more information.