

1 ONOKI, MAS. JAPAN

**BEAUTY CAN BE  
SEEN BY ALL**

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NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

# the Round Up

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# ARTS

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## seeing is believing



Clockwise starting from far left: The painting "Flowing River" demonstrates Mendoza's interpretation of nature. The artist's painting "Daisy Dreamer." The painting "Wise Tree" which inspired Mendoza's best-selling cotton fabric collection. To see more photos visit [www.roundupnews.com/a-e](http://www.roundupnews.com/a-e) or [www.georgemendoza.com](http://www.georgemendoza.com). Courtesy of George Mendoza

By Eric Hill | Staff Writer

### Artist George Mendoza

is renowned for his vibrantly colored artwork, popular in all parts of the world, and with his unique works of art in the fabric and textiles industry, Mendoza has become a household name.

Mendoza is not your typical artist. At the age of fifteen, Mendoza was diagnosed with a kinetic eye disorder and legally blind. With hard work, Mendoza became a young Olympic blind runner and began creating artwork using bright colors, which he says he can see up close.

With hard work and determination, Mendoza has created a brand, "Wise Tree," a collection of cotton fabrics inspired by his

paintings. This fabric collection is distributed all globally and is made into everything from quilts to T-shirts and clothing. Describing his artwork as visionary, Mendoza also said his biggest accomplishment has been his cotton fabric collection.

"It has caught everyone's interest," said Mendoza.

Mendoza has also produced four documentary films and the "Vision of the Soul" traveling art



show, which enjoyed a nationally successful run from 2006-2010. He was also featured in the Las Cruces "For the Love of Art" exhibit in February.

**"HIS STORY IS PRETTY REMARKABLE, BEING A BLIND MAN AND AN ARTIST IS JUST UNHEARD OF."**

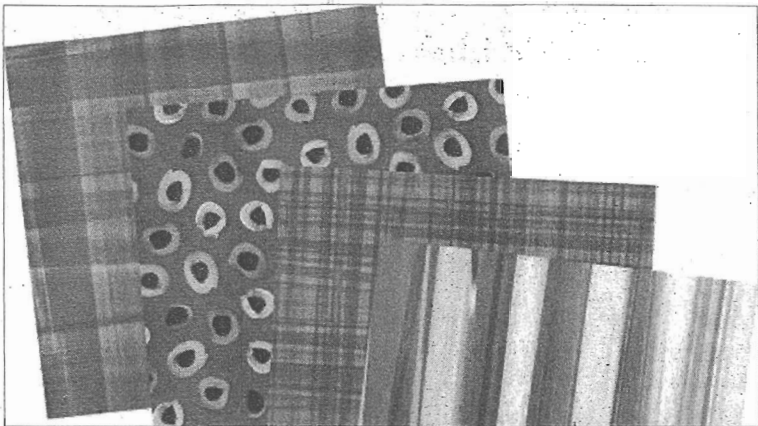
**-- NICK MCCLELLAND, BUSINESS MANAGEMENT MAJOR**

Mendoza, an alumnus, is very involved with the New Mexico State University community, where he attends and helps a business management class. Because he created his own valuable brand, Mendoza teaches NMSU business students the ins and outs of running a business.

"I haven't heard a story like his before," said Nick McClelland, a business management major. "His story is pretty remarkable, being a blind man and an artist is just unheard of."

Mendoza is busy with many projects. Some of the projects include the "Art in Public Places" project that he said he hopes will be featured in O'Donnell Hall in the coming year. Mendoza said he hopes to feature paintings tile murals, fabric showcases quilts and sand paintings in this exhibit. He also said he hopes to distribute his sand paintings to the blind, and host sand painting workshops on creating sensory

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Above are examples of textiles from Mendoza's current endeavors. His designs are made into quilts and are sold worldwide. **Courtesy of George Mendoza**

# Mendoza

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artworks. Mendoza said he also is planning a collaboration with Blue Star Mothers of America to make quilts to be donated to soldiers serving over seas.

Mendoza will open art exhibitions in May and in August.

For more information about Mendoza, visit [www.george-mendoza.com](http://www.george-mendoza.com).

## TRU ARTS

► FOR UPDATES ON THE ART SCENE IN THE LAS CRUCES AREA VISIT [WWW.ROUNDUPNEWS.COM/A-E](http://WWW.ROUNDUPNEWS.COM/A-E).

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