

WESTERN
ART & Architecture
From Cowboy to Contemporary

Jim Nelson Puts Spirit on Canvas

Pete Zaluzec: From Field to Fine Art

Eyeing Beauty: The Paintings of Milo "Skip" Whitcomb

Architecture in the West: From the Lone Star State to the California Coast



plus:

Wanderings: Boulder, Colorado

Perspective: George Catlin [1796–1872]

Collector's Notebook: Building a Western Art Library



WANDERINGS: BOULDER, COLORADO

Get fit, get fed and get fired up about art in this alpine paradise

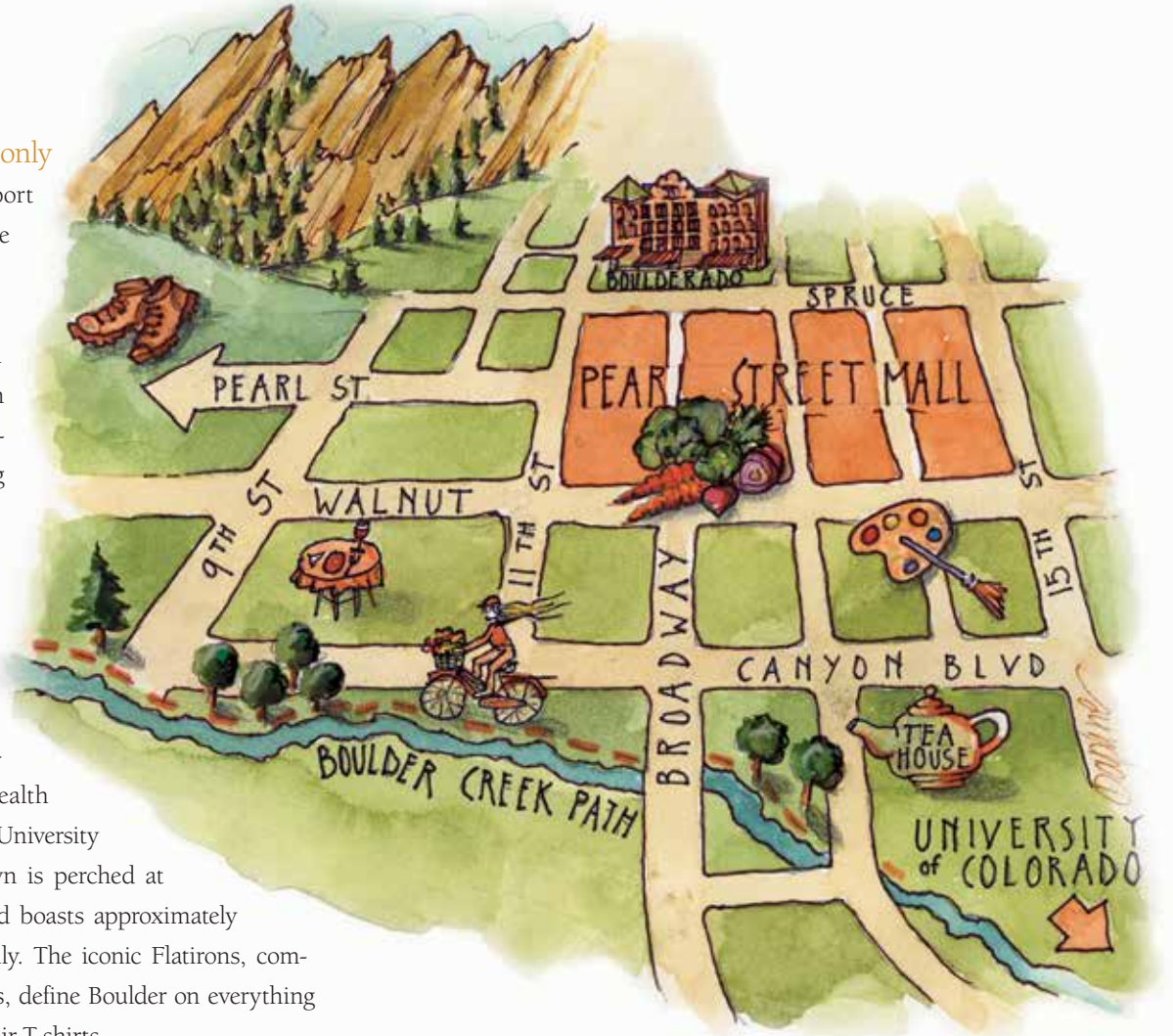
WRITTEN BY Kathy Chin Leong

When a community of only 100,000 citizens can support six natural food stores while larger cities can barely sustain one; when farm-to-table food preparation is the norm among restaurants rather than a movement; when employees prefer to bond on hiking trails instead of bar stools, then you've got a destination that's in a class of its own. That destination is Boulder, Colorado.

Less than an hour's drive from Denver, the 25-square-mile college town is a health nut's dream. Home to the University of Colorado Boulder, the town is perched at 5,430 feet above sea level and boasts approximately 300 days of sunshine annually. The iconic Flatirons, comprised of five sandstone peaks, define Boulder on everything from business logos to souvenir T-shirts.

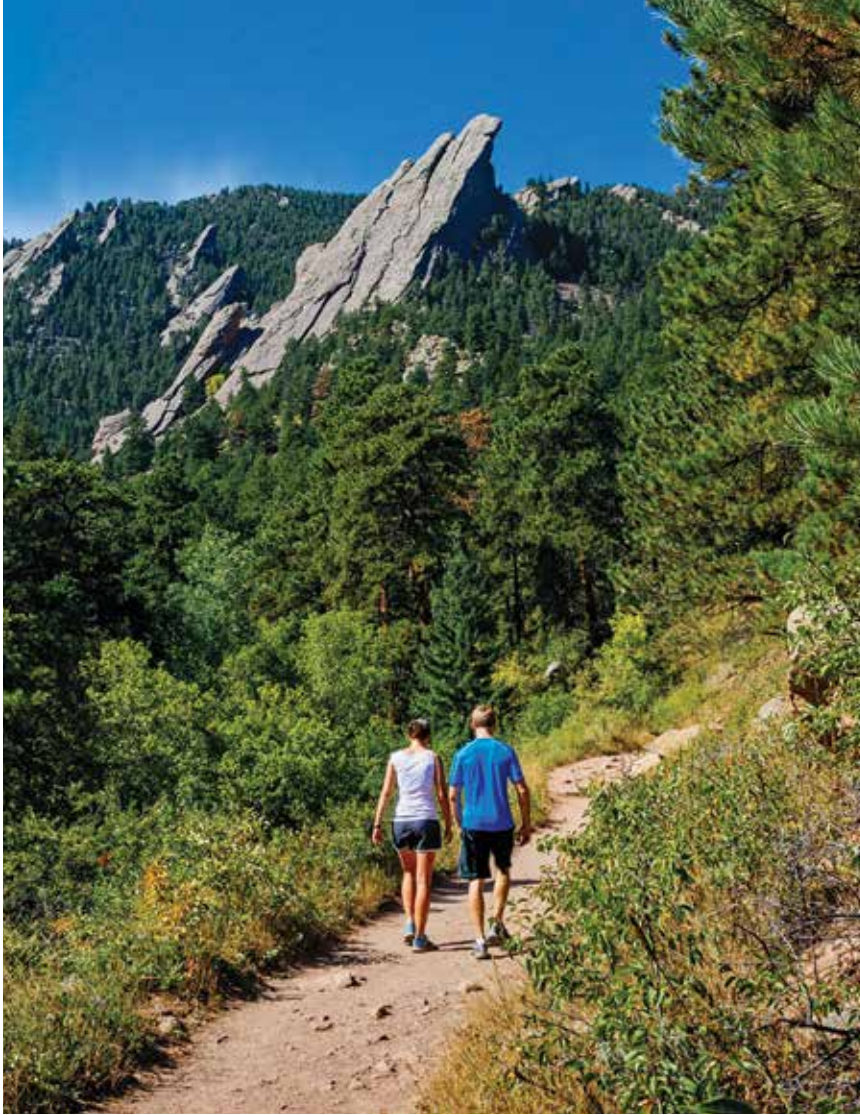
In this alpine paradise, Olympic athletes pummel their bodies every day by hiking, biking, running or skiing. Meanwhile, a litany of PhDs and intellectual elite flex mental muscle at Boulder's 13 major federal labs. Among the residents, 30,000 (or 33 percent) are college kids. With such a cadre of Olympians, high-achieving scientists, educators and students, it's no surprise that the Gallup poll ranked Boulder as the fittest city in the United States with the country's lowest obesity rate at 12.4 percent.

The crux of Boulder's culture is not about fitness for looks, but fitness as essential to the joy of living. For visitors, bicycling is a simple first step. From easy to advanced paths, the city is popular for its well-marked bike lanes in addition to supportive, bicycle-aware drivers. Trails crisscross the city so a rider can pedal from one end of Boulder to the other without



Opposite page, from top right: Farm-to-table cuisine is iconic at The Kitchen Next Door. Photo: Davis Tilly Photography | The Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art was founded in 1972 by a group of local artists and is housed in this glorious 1906 building. Photo courtesy BMOCA | Diana Tripp's *The Journey's End* evokes memories of vibrant vistas in dreamy pastel. | The Dushanbe Teahouse draws visitors worldwide. Photo courtesy Three Leaf Concepts | Chautauqua Dining Hall is Boulder's historic gem. | Shakespeare is performed annually at the Colorado Shakespeare Festival held at the University of Colorado Boulder campus. Photos courtesy Boulder CVB | Black Cat Farm supplies heritage and exotic produce to Black Cat Restaurant. Photo: Con Poulos | Mountain biking is like breathing to local Boulderites. Photo: Dave Sutherland, City of Boulder | Every visitor must take a hike to the Flatirons during their stay. Photo: Denise Chambers/Boulder CVB

Map: Daphne Gilliam





This page, from top: Leanin' Tree Museum of Art treats guests to life-sized Western sculptures in its garden. Admission is free. | Pearl Street Mall is the entrepreneurial lifeblood of Boulder. | This fairy makes her rounds at the Tulip Fairy and Elf Festival. | Temptation is irresistible at the Smith Klein Gallery featuring sculpture, paintings, jewelry and glasswork. Photos courtesy Boulder Convention and Visitors Bureau

having to navigate car traffic. The city is home to a spate of cycle shops in addition to the B-Cycle public bikes that are available on the streets for hourly rental. The most popular ride is the paved, 7-mile, tree-lined **Boulder Creek Path** that bisects downtown Boulder.

After working up a big appetite, travelers will have no problem finding wholesome and delicious places to eat. “We Boulderites care about what fuels our bodies,” says Kim Farin of the Boulder Convention and Visitors Bureau. The community’s insistence on organic and local produce makes for friendly competition among the local, upscale restaurants. Open for dinner only, **Black Cat** is owned by Jill and Chef Eric Skokan, who also operate an organic 130-acre farm. Black Cat’s claim to fame is its ability to produce and grow 90 percent of the food on the diner’s plate. Meanwhile, **The Kitchen** follows suit with sustainable and organic produce and meats provided by local farmers and ranchers. Dinner menus consist of comfort American dishes including pan-seared rainbow trout and house-made tomato soup.

At the **Spruce Farm and Fish**, this new entrant to the Boulder culinary scene delivers contemporary

if YOU GO ...

ATTRACTIONS & TOURS

Awe-Struck Outdoors Bike to Farm Tours: Various locations
303.807.6634; awestruckoutdoors.com

Chautauqua Park: 900 Baseline Road; 303.442.3282; chautauqua.com

Leanin' Tree Museum of Western Art: 6055 Longbow Dr.; 303.729.3412
leanintreemuseum.com

Pearl Street Mall: Pearl Street between 11th and 15th St; 303.449.3774
boulderdowntown.com

Tinker Art Studio
1300 Yellow Pine Ave., #B
303.503.1902; tinkerartstudio.com

EVENTS

Boulder International Fringe Festival: Sept. 16 - 27
303.803.5643; various locations
boulderfringe.com

Pearl Street Arts Fest
July 18-19, 2015; Pearl Street Mall
303.449.3774; boulderdowntown.com

Tulip Fairy & Elf Festival
Held annually in April; Pearl Street Mall (13th to 15th St.); 303.449.3774
boulderdowntown.com

GALLERIES

Art and Soul Gallery: 1615 Pearl St.
303.544.5803; artandsoulboulder.com

15th Street Studio: 1708 15th St.
303.447.2841; 15thstreetstudio.com

Mary Williams Fine Arts
2116 Pearl St.; 303.938.1588
marywilliamsfinearts.com

Smith Klein Gallery: 1116 Pearl St.
303.444.7200; smithklein.com

DINING

Black Cat: 1964 13th St.
303.444.5500; blackcatboulder.com

Dushanbe Teahouse: 1770 13th St.
303.442.4993; boulderteahouse.com

Spruce Farm and Fish: 2115 13th St.
303.442.4880; spruceboulderado.com

The Kitchen: 1039 Pearl St.
303.544.5973; thekitchen.com

ACCOMMODATIONS

Chautauqua Cottages & Lodges
900 Baseline Rd.; 303.442.3282
chautauqua.com

Hotel Boulderado: 2115 13th St.
303.442.4344; boulderado.com

St. Julien Hotel and Spa: 900 Walnut St.; 720.406.9696; stjulien.com

American fare, emphasizing seasonal ingredients. Specialties include caramelized brussels sprouts made with soy and sweet chili glaze.

Feeding the artistic soul and appetite is the **Dushanbe Teahouse**, a gift from sister city Dushanbe in Tajikistan, near Afghanistan. Delivered to the town in sections, it was rebuilt piece by piece by craftsmen who came from Dushanbe. The teahouse stuns with vibrant hues from the hand-painted ceramic panels. Mosaics in greens, reds, yellows and blues fill the eye from floor to celestial ceiling. Featuring international loose leaf teas, Dushanbe serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, and, of course, afternoon tea.

Foodies can combine exercise with meals by going on the **Bike to Farm Tours** from **Awe-Struck Outdoors**. The Thursday-night ride brings cyclists together for a killer tour followed by a three-course farm dinner.

Lodging worth the trip can be found at **The Boulderado**, which opened doors to weary travelers in 1909. The property is a prime example of Italian Renaissance and Spanish Revival architecture with Victorian furnishings and modern amenities. Wowing visitors with its stained-glass canopy ceiling, the hotel was recently restored and still operates its original Otis elevator with a uniformed bellman at the helm.

Other historic surroundings include those at **Chautauqua Park**, where people can rent unique lodge rooms and historic cottages. For luxurious dwellings, the **St. Julien Hotel & Spa** offers modern rooms coupled with mountain views.

In Boulder, support for the arts



Elizabeth Black



Margie Swift



Julie Oriet

Choices we make



Paths we take

A Three Woman Show

November 6th through December 7th

Elizabeth Black • Julie Oriet • Margie Swift



To be put on our mailing list & to receive further information about the show contact:

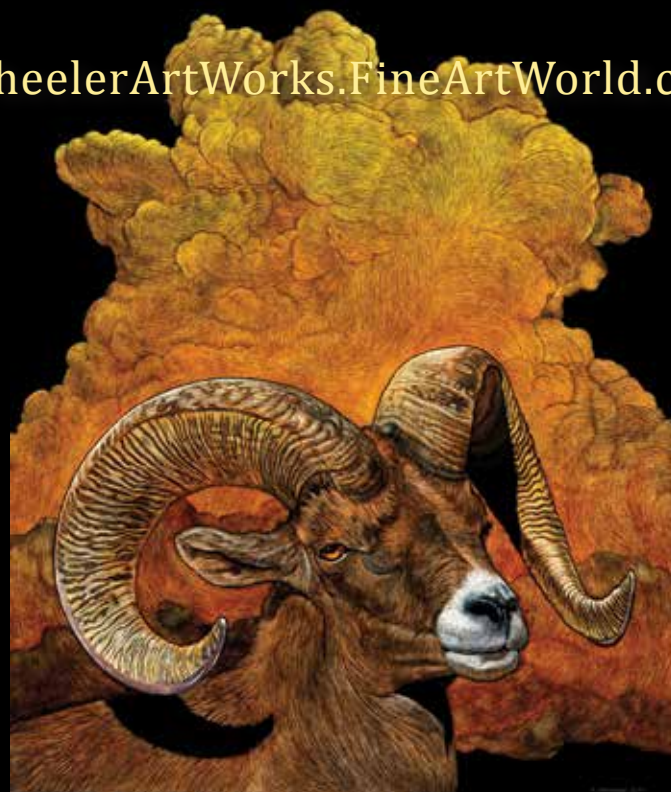
[info @ marywilliamsfinearts.com](mailto:info@marywilliamsfinearts.com)

303.938.1588 / www.marywilliamsfinearts.com
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Thunderhead / 18 x 24 in.

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The Flatirons provides a spectacular backdrop for the city of Boulder where the image is part of its branding. Photo courtesy Boulder CVB

is rampant. At **Tinker Art Studio** guests can drop in on weekend classes. The **Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art** offers innovative exhibitions. For original artwork, go to **Pearl Street Mall**, a brick-paved shopping and dining district. A few of the downtown galleries include **Smith Klein** for nationally recognized artists, **Art and Soul** for fine Modern art, **Mary Williams Fine Arts** for 19th- and 20th-century works, and **15th Street Studio** for contemporary paintings.

Less than a mile from town is the **Leanin' Tree Museum of Western Art**, which showcases the collection of Ed Trumble, founder of Leanin' Tree greeting cards. Free to the

public and built as an homage to the lives of cowboys and Native Americans, the museum and sculpture garden boasts 250 paintings and more than 100 bronze sculptures.

Memorable events elevate the energy in this active city. While it hosts numerous fitness events, Boulder loves to throw art and community festivals. Every spring, the **Tulip Fairy & Elf Festival** celebrates with costumed children parading through patches of 15,000 tulips. In July, craftspeople sell wares at the **Pearl Street Arts Fest**. And every September, storytellers, poets, actors and dancers perform at the **Boulder International Fringe Festival**.

Tiny Boulder packs a big punch when it comes to outdoor recreation and farm-to-table fare. Together with cultural adventures, this granola-loving town appeals to all ages. In one location, you can tackle a new trail, see a new exhibit and, best of all, gain a new perspective. ■

Kathy Chin Leong is a freelance writer based in Sunnyvale, California. Her work has appeared in *Coastal Living* magazine, National Geographic Books and many other national publications.



Michelle Jung

“Sea Spray”

36" x 36"

Oil on Canvas



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