

Celebration of Clay



Lee Akins

a subject that is timely — namely the fact that we all need to come together instead of becoming more and more fractured as a society.

Originally from Puerto Rico, García and her husband visited Abiquiú, in 2013 for the first time. It took just a week for them to fall in love with Abiquiú and its surroundings.

By 2015 they were ready to move to New Mexico and were lucky to find a beautiful spot on top of a mesa where they now have their home and García's studio.

García's work—a diverse range of painting, sculpture, and installation—explores the intersections of feminism, mythology, and cultural roots. She is endlessly intrigued by the internal and external mysteries of humanity, how we navigate our emotions, desires, fantasies and impulses. The human figure plays a central role on her work, which straddles the line between the surreal and the real. García presents us with a set of circumstances that can unfold in various direction and, wants her work to act as a point of departure, encouraging the viewer to connect, interact, and ultimately create their own narrative.

Judy Nelson-Moore's name will no doubt be familiar to readers of the *Rio Grande SUN's* Arts section.

"My life journey is like my work in clay...I enter into the journey," Nelson-Moore said. "I play with shapes, colors and surfaces until something interesting emerges."

A perfect example of this playfulness in her piece, *Back Seat Driver*."

"I push the clay to the edge to try new experiences," Nelson-Moore continued. "The result is about what I encounter along the way and how it feels to change. What better medium than clay to explore the process of change."

"Clay is the very substance produced by the earth's change processes. I ask the clay what it wants to do. Entering into the change process, not trying to control it, not letting it control me, but interacting, observing, appreciating, nudging here, and getting pushed back there. I tell my fingers to follow the clay on its travels. When I turn around and look at the work, I see a mirror of my own inner journey. When I am working with the clay, it feels like the clay is engaging me in a dialogue about where it wants to go."

"Having worked in clay for 40 years, I consider myself an outsider artist," she admitted. "I do not follow established paths, methods, or styles. I have always thought of myself as a rebel, in the artist arena, in business and in other areas of life."

As always, this year's Celebration of Clay exhibit doesn't disappoint. The show is expansive and shows off the wide territory that is covered by the Association's members. It's well worth the drive to Taos.

Essentials

Where: the Taos Ceramics Center, 114 Este Es Road, Taos

When: Through July 23. Regular gallery hours are Wednesday noon to 5 p.m., Thursday - Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday noon to 4 p.m.

Info: For more information on The New Mexico Potters and Clay Artists Association you can visit www.nmpotters.org or www.celebrationofclay.com.

Note: Public and friends can also interact with the exhibit through The Association's online People's Choice Award, where you can view the exhibit pieces and vote for your favorite. Go to www.celebrationofclay.com through July 23 to vote for the People's Choice. The People's Choice Award will be announced by July 29 on the website, www.celebrationofclay.com.

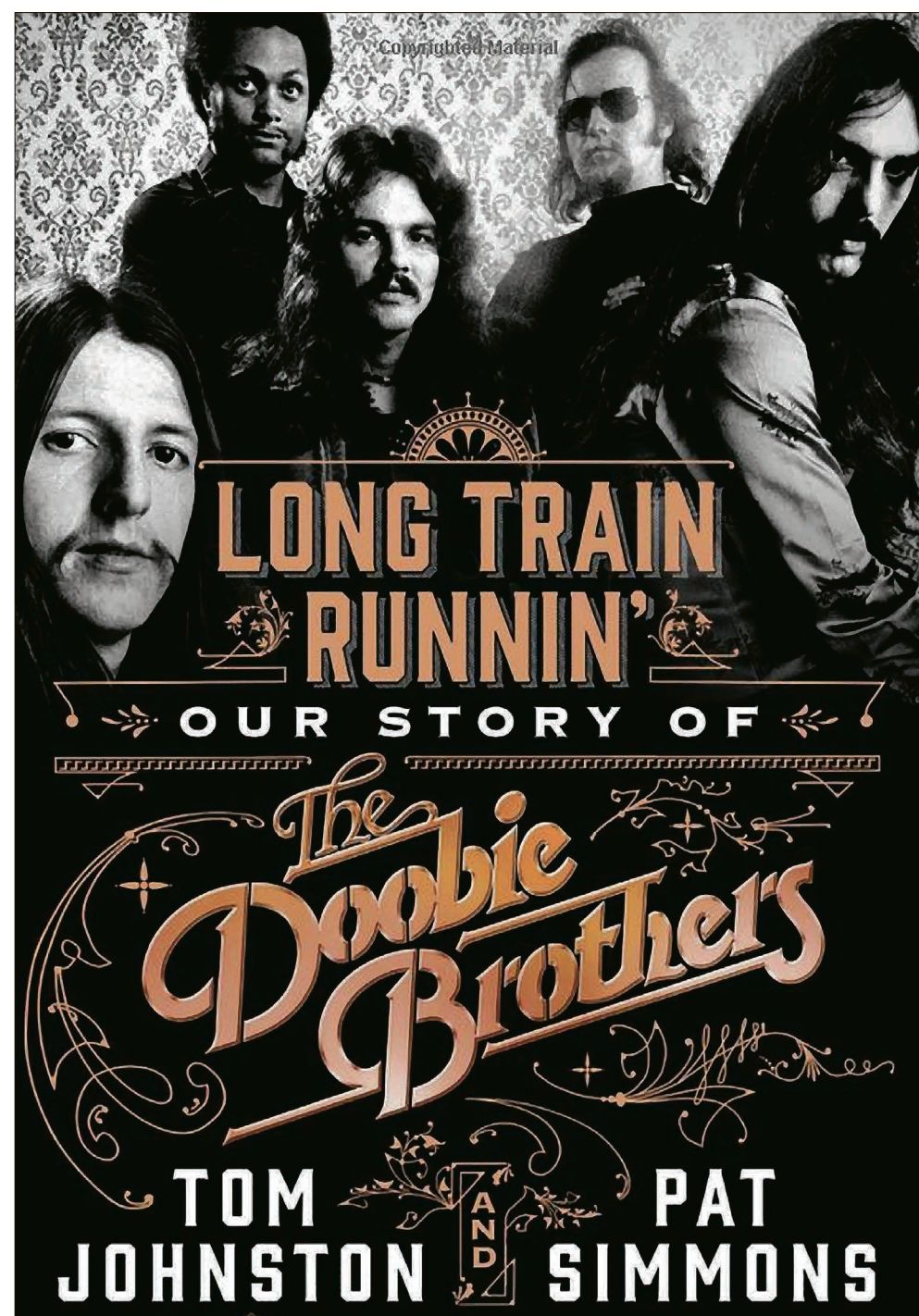


Hebé García

Bookworm

Reviewed by Terri Schlichenmeyer

Rock and Roll Books



Turn it up.

The problem with listening to tunes in your back yard is that you can't hear music on the patio when you're out by the trees. You can't hear back-porch beats when you're in the front yard, so you gotta turn it up. The good news, though, as you'll see in these two great volumes, is that you never have to worry about the volume of a book.

What might it be like to be the founder of a world-famous band, one that creates hit after hit? What would it be like to fight to keep that momentum? In "Long Train Runnin': Our Story of The Doobie Brothers" by Tom Johnston and Pat Simmons with Chris Epting (St. Martin's Press, \$29.99), you'll get a glimpse.

Back in the late 1960s in Northern California, when you mentioned the Grateful Dead or BTO or T. Rex, chances are that the next band on your lips was The Doobie Brothers. Here, founding members Pat Simmons and Tom Johnston tell the story of the beginnings of the band, and what it was like to be a budding musician at a time when

rock & roll was moving past the teeny-bopper stuff. Fame was not instantaneous, though, and there was a lot to learn about trend-setting for a signature look and stage show; watching your song climb the charts to Number One was a trip, too.

But then Johnston got sick, and the band almost broke up. This is also the story of Simmons' efforts to keep things together, of a new back-up singer breathing new life into a favorite band. If you love to "Listen to the Music," you shouldn't miss this book.

So, then, answer quick: what do KISS, Cheap Trick, Aerosmith, and Starz have in common? Find out in "They Just Seem a Little Weird" by Doug Brod (Hachette, \$17.99).

Entanglement. That's probably the best word to describe the stories that Brod, an entertainment journalist, shares in this wild book — entanglement and a bit of surprise. Who knew that so-called 1970s "hair bands" and that same decade's grunge bands have several amazing, hidden connections? You will, when you read this interview-rich book that feels like a musical

Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon game you can play with your LP or CD collection. Here, fans will learn about many surprising beginnings and endings in a growing then-new genre of music. Between those opening and closing acts, there was quite the sharing of resources and fan-bases, all which kept Cheap Trick, Kiss, and Aerosmith working and making music. You'll also learn how one band went on to what is near-obscurity today.

If you're a fan of 70s music, then "Surrender" and read this book.

And if these two reads don't fit your requirements, well, don't despair. There are lots of other books about rock & roll, guitarists, bands from any decade, and singers and songwriters that you can read. All you have to do is ask your favorite booksellers or librarians for help and see what they turn up.

Rock & Roll books by various authors, c.2022, St. Martin's Press / Hachette \$17.99 - \$29.99, various page counts

Display Your Artwork at the SUN

The *Rio Grande SUN* is looking for artists to display their work in our lobby. The artist, in addition to having their work on display, will have a story about their art in the Arts section of the *SUN*.

We are looking for work that can be hung on our walls, which eliminates things such as jewelry and sculpture.

If you think you have work that is appropriate, please send a couple of representative photos of your work and contact information to: rgsunarts@gmail.com

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