

Nolan Preece's exhibition is on view at the Lilley Museum of Art at the University of Nevada, Reno, through Dec. 20. To see more of the artist's work, visit nolanpreece.com.

Preece said. "I thought, 'Is that all I had to do was make a landscape?'" The floodgates opened. We had three or four museums calling a day for a while, wanting a show. I got about 10 national shows on my resume out of that bunch."

FULL CIRCLE

Preece still has a darkroom in his home—which became a rarity after digital printing took hold. It's filled with vintage equipment, trays for photo chemicals and neatly shelved folders and boxes full of chemigrams that date from the 1970s to the present. Flipping through a three-ring binder, he pointed out images that he's made over the decades. Earlier pieces look like artful blobs and drips. Later pieces look more controlled, resembling mountains, canyons or sunlight glinting off the surfaces of lakes. Preece sometimes revisits the older images, samples them, re-colors them, and Photoshops them into new compositions.

And those 40- and 50-year-old darkroom chemistry experiments aren't the only thing that's come full circle for Preece. Winter's coming up, and while Reno can't compete with Logan, Utah for weeks-long stretches of sub-freezing temperatures, it's cold enough here that he does tend to shoot photos outside in the summer and hole up in the darkroom to make chemigrams once the snow flies.

"I'll probably do a whole avalanche of them this winter," he said. □

In 2014, shortly after Preece had a show at the Nevada Museum of Art, Carter asked him to provide an image for her company Christmas card. He sent her a chemigram on which he'd "drawn" with photo chemicals and floor wax. The image looks like a muted winter sunrise with a thick forest of bare trees in the middle ground and a gracefully arcing tree trunk in the foreground. The scene is lonely, even a little apocalyptic, darkly beautiful, without an iota of Christmas cheer.

But Carter mailed the card to 300 museums, and her strategy proved effective. "The phone started ringing off the hook,"

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Nolan Preece peruses some of his works dating back to the 1970s. PHOTO/KRIS VAGNER

WINTER HOURS

SUN	4P-2A
MON	CLOSED
TUES	4P-2A
WED	4P-2A
THURS	4P-2A
FRI	4P-4A
SAT	4P-4A

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