

Immediate Release: January 5, 2010

Kill Date: March 7, 2010

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Left: Denise Dodson, President
Right: Judi Combs, CEO

Carefree Fine Art & Wine Festival Ranked Top 10 Art Fair Nationwide

*Art Fair Sourcebook Ranking Announced, as Thunderbird Artists
Prepare for 17th Annual Event, Which Features 165+ Award-Winning
Artisans Jan. 15-17 in Downtown Carefree*

Thunderbird Artists' Carefree Fine Art & Wine Festival has been ranked #10 in the top 25 Art Fairs nationwide, according to Greg Lawler's Art Fair Sourcebook. The prestigious 2010 ranking was announced this week, prior to the 17th annual event taking place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday, January 15, 16 & 17 in downtown Carefree, 101 Easy Street. The popular fine art show is also being considered for publication in The Harris List of Nation's Best Arts & Crafts Shows, one of the most discriminating lists available to fine artists and craftsmen.

"We're honored to receive such a high ranking, especially as Thunderbird Artists begins its 29th year of producing award-winning fine art and fine wine festivals throughout the Southwest," said Denise Dodson, Vice President of Thunderbird Artists.

A family-run business that began with Dodson's mother, Judi Combs, Thunderbird Artists has received numerous accolades over the years. Dodson attributes much of the events' success to the participating artists.

"We've been very fortunate to attract award-winning artists from throughout the country and abroad," she said. "The quality of work exhibited has consistently improved to the point where our events have been referred to as a "Collector's Paradise." Many of these artists are like family to us, and it has been an honor to watch their own careers evolve and grow."

The 17th Annual Carefree Fine Art & Wine Festival features more than 165 acclaimed artisans who will display and sell a wide variety of paintings, two-dimensional artwork, small, medium, and life-sized sculptures, bronzes, sparkling hand-blown glass, wood, clay, metal, stone, gourds, one-of-a-kind hand-crafted jewelry, exceptional photography and much more.

Watercolorist Jeanne Bonine, best known for her soft and lush larger-than-life floral paintings, has been chosen as Thunderbird Artists' 2010 season poster artist. The unveiling of her limited edition print, "Way to Wickenburg," will take place at this weekend's event. Only 250 prints are available for \$30.00.

Patrons who enjoy the ambience of the Carefree Fine Art & Wine Festival can enjoy the same experience at all of Thunderbird Artists' 2010 events, including the **6th Annual Arizona Fine Art EXPO**, taking place January 14 through March 28 at the "festive white tents" on the southwest corner of Jomax and Scottsdale Roads; the **15th Annual Carefree Fine Art & Wine Festival** at Carefree Town Center, set for March 5-7; the **6th Annual Fountain Hills Fine Art & Wine Affaire**, taking place March 19-21; the **17th Annual Carefree Fine Art & Wine Festival at Carefree Town Center**, set for November 5-7.

Admission to the 17th Annual Carefree Fine Art & Wine Festival is \$3, with complimentary admission for Carefree residents and children under 18. Parking is free. For information, call **(480) 837-5637** or visit www.ThunderbirdArtists.com.