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### **Bronze Artist Marianne Caroselli Named Featured Artist for Thunderbird Artists' Fountain Hills Fine Art & Wine Affaire**

Marianne Caroselli's passion for art began at the tender age of ten up in Lyndhurst, New Jersey. The art world opened to her through ceramics. She started a business when a seamstress neighbor agreed to display her ceramic pieces for the customers who frequented her sewing shop. They in turn placed orders for the ceramics. Marianne's career had begun. As her business grew, Marianne began presenting ceramic shows in private homes.



As the years passed, her interest went to oil painting. A friend gave her an oil painting set and she then started a new career.

After moving to Texas in 1972, she became so inspired by the west, her painting took on a western flavor. A small ranch in San Marcos Texas was the setting for her inspiration. The family had horses, cows, burros, dogs, cats and many different animals for the children's projects.

This venture became a huge success, with her paintings being published as greeting cards by the prestigious Leanin Tree Greeting Card Co. in Boulder Colorado. Then followed open edition prints by a New York company. A western calendar company also published her paintings.

Upon the advice of a fellow artist, Marianne began sculpting in 1989. To perfect her trade, she attended many workshops at the Cowboy Artists of America Museum in Kerrville, TX. During that time, Marianne concurrently painted and sculpted, but eventually chose to concentrate on sculpting. She no longer paints, but believes that she may return to it one day.



Marianne's family has been very supportive in her career. Her husband, Edgar James, enjoys traveling with her and assisting with the shows, as does her daughter, Scye Caroselli. Scye has begun sculpting and painting and she and her mom have recently completed their first piece together. Marianne's three sons, Douglas, Kurt, and Scott Caroselli, have also been a special part of her life's work. They traveled with her early in her career and served as some of her first models, posing on their horses. The four children grew up with their playpens next to Marianne's easel and eventually graduated to helping with the shows. Art has always been a part of their lives and they have a great appreciation for it.

Marianne says that her career has been filled with wonderfully rewarding experiences. She enjoys sharing her love of art with others and making people smile. Many of her pieces, especially those with children and pets, truly bring a smile to your face. Her work, which ranges in size from tabletop to life sized monuments, is represented in ten galleries in seven states, and her website has the latest creations. Loving art as she does, Marianne has no intentions of retiring or of slowing down. In her spare time, this artist enjoys her grandchildren, family gatherings, golf and poker with “the ladies”.



#### About the Festival

Thunderbird Artists' Fountain Hills Fine Art & Wine Affaire, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006, will present over 150 fine artisans from throughout the United States, Canada, Russia and Israel. Paintings in all mediums and subjects will be on display, along with bronze, clay, glass, wood, mixed media, metal sculptures and more.

The festival's menu of pleasure isn't relegated strictly to fine art. Patrons will enjoy live musical entertainment featuring Darren Curtis Skanson and the Sahnas Brothers. As you stroll amongst the artists, you will take pleasure in the magic made with their guitars, violin and keyboards.

The wine tasting portion of this event will be hosted by AZ Wines, Grapeables and Kokopelli Winery. There will be a variety of domestic and imported wines on hand. For \$10, patrons will receive an engraved keepsake wine glass, six sampling tickets and the experience of sampling premium wines from throughout the world.

Come out and enjoy the beautiful Arizona weather, the premium wines, the vibrant music and spectacular art!

Festival hours are 10am to 5pm, Friday through Sunday. Admission is \$2 (18 and up) and parking is free all weekend. For further information, contact Thunderbird Artists at 480-837-5637 or visit [www.ThunderbirdArtists.com](http://www.ThunderbirdArtists.com).