

Meg Harper Flees The Corporate World - Going Green!

Pink giraffes and turquoise zebras painted on the Bell Tower of the original Florence, AZ courthouse would have caused an uproar when it was originally built in 1891, but that and other exotic wildlife is exactly the designs valley artist Meg Harper has created on pieces of reclaimed tin roofing salvaged from this historic landmark that is causing a stir over a century later.



Harper joins artists from around the country to paint, show, and sell her work on location at the Arizona Fine Art Expo in Scottsdale. She has been working there on the latest piece in her corrugated metal collection, a saguaro cactus painted directly on reclaimed tin roofing from the Bell Tower of the original courthouse property in Florence, AZ. "Going Green" is a trend seen everywhere, and recycled art is gaining popularity. It's the theme of the Arizona Fine Art EXPO this year, which unites 100 nationally acclaimed and award winning artists for this seventy-four consecutive day event where visitors can wander and watch the artists creating right before their eyes.



The show, produced by Thunderbird Artists, runs everyday from 10am-6pm through March 29th at the southwest corner of Scottsdale and Jomax Roads, (26540 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85255), 5 miles south of Carefree & 5 miles north of Loop 101 on Scottsdale Road. Visitors can enjoy the open air as they visit artists' studios, housed under 44,000 square feet of open festive tents.

Called unconventional by most, both in her art and how she lives her life, Meg Harper has always believed that we each have a choice of what our attitude or focus is going to be, each moment of everyday and that positive energy translates to her work. Harper begins each day by reading a positive thought to herself, and surrounds herself with messages to push her creatively. One visitor told her "From the looks of your paintings you never get up on the wrong side of the bed!" Her paintings bring a fresh, whimsical approach to contemporary southwestern art with unexpected colors, and dreamlike motifs. She graduated 20 years ago with a painting degree, and like so many other art majors was not taught how to make a living doing her art and ended up in a partnership position at a top 5 Ad agency in Phoenix after 10 years with the agency as a graphic artist. In 2003 she flew the proverbial "corporate coop" to paint full time. She's shown her work as far across the country as Chicago and has collectors all across the U.S. Her work can be seen at the Naked Horse Gallery and thru March 29th at the Arizona Fine Arts Expo in Scottsdale.

