



NEWS RELEASE

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Thunderbird Artists' Arizona Fine Art EXPO Begins January 14 in Beautiful Desert Setting of North Scottsdale

100 renowned artists participating, many of whom will demonstrate their techniques and create original works of art for 10 weeks in festive white tents

Highlights include one of the largest and most diverse sculpture gardens in the northeast Valley, classes, wine tastings, live music and other events

(SCOTTSDALE) – Some 100 renowned artists from throughout the country will make the beautiful Sonoran Desert in north Scottsdale home for 10 weeks as they create original pieces of fine art in what has come to be known as one of Arizona's best venues for collecting fine art. **Thunderbird Artists' Arizona Fine Art EXPO** begins **Thursday, January 14** and runs through Sunday, March 28 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily in the "festive white tents" at 26540 N. Scottsdale Road, on the southwest corner of Scottsdale and Jomax Roads. Season passes cost \$8; admission for seniors and military is \$7; and children under 12 are free. Parking is free.

"This year's event is truly not to be missed," said Judith Combs, president and CEO of the award-winning Thunderbird Artists. "It is rare to find this caliber of talent in one setting, particularly our eco-friendly venue which is the gateway to the foothills, where pristine mountain vistas, giant boulder formations, and towering saguaro cacti create spectacular silhouettes with dramatic sunsets. The scenic drive begins at the Arizona Fine Art EXPO and progresses north to Carefree."

Combs said patrons will find a variety of artists from nearly 20 states, Canada, Mexico, and Africa.

"This event combines the aspects of a juried fine art festival, the elements of a gallery, and the inner-workings of an artist's studio. With your season pass, you can visit as often as you'd like. You'll have unprecedented access to meet the world's most gifted artists, learn what inspires them, and watch them in action," she said.

Throughout the 10 weeks, artisans will sketch passionately in pencil, charcoal and pastels; sculpt and fire clay; drill, chisel and carve stone; paint in all media; sketch and dye batiks; carve, stain and etch gourds; design lost wax casting; solder and weld jewelry; assemble mosaics and more. Art is for sale and commissions are welcomed.

One of the many highlights includes the two-acre Sculpture Garden sponsored by Pathways Nursery.

"We're very proud of our Sculpture Garden, which is one of the largest and most diverse in the northeast Valley," Combs said. "Be sure to view the more than 75 pieces of sculptural art, including 25 large natural stone sculptures by recognized leading African artists sponsored by Zuva Gallery."

Garden attractions, sponsored by Pathways Nursery, include the elegance of a Koi pond, waterfalls, hummingbird and butterfly garden, roses, charming gazebo, putting green and lovely quaint lounging areas. The Arizona Bridge Company sponsors beautiful bridges that cross over flowing water, stones, and sandy paths.

"We're also very excited to announce that Dr. Gerald A. Rosenthal, of Cornell University and author of *Desert Sonoran Life*, will offer a series of talks and group discussions on the Sonoran Desert as part of our sculpture-garden activities," Combs said.

(more)

Other highlights include art classes and workshops, wine tastings, garden parties, beautiful Gala, and book signings throughout the show and live music every weekend.

This year's participating artists include: Ernie Apodaca, Guadalupe Apodaca, Tricia Anderson, ATALANTA, Patrick Bailey, David Barby, Dwight Bennett, Craig Bergsgaard, Hugh Blanding, Jane Boggs, Keiligh Borja-Smith, Rick Borja, Luciano Bortone, Betty Bozenka, Herb Brown, Robert Burt, Susan Byrd, Rudolph Cavalier, Crystal Carol, Bob Coonts, Jacqueline Cohan, Travis Crowther, Keith Dabb, Jess Davila, Kim Davis, Steve Davis, Brad Diddams, Gene Dieckhoner, Jim Dodson, Jr., Tyrel Dowlat, Cynthia Downs-Apodaca, Minna Dunn, Jerome Ellis, Steven Failows, Philip Feaster, Marless Fellows, Jerry Fuhriman, Jacky Garlock, Bobbie Goodrich, Dan Hale, Hambone, Julia Harmon, Christine Hauber, Joy Hartl, Dave Hedblom, Judy Hedblom, Jeff Hepworth, Mark Hines, Kat Hogan, Charles M. Huckeba, Beth Hyatt-Rapp, Lorene Ireland, Greg Kinne, Lauren Knode, Dorothy Kordash, Michael Krob, Melody Krob, Donna Levine, Daniel Long, Kelby Love, Roger Lundskow, Marlan V. Masteller, Janne Matter, Lynnette Moody, Betsy Montoya, John Montoya, GeneMyers, Mike Myers, Lori Myers, Matthew Naftzger, Randy Nottingham, Abimbola Olaniyan, Marlene Pardi, Shalah Perkins, Chata Quintana, Hank Richter, Gary Robertson, Jonah Runyanga, Kevin Russel, Michelle Russell, Julio Sanchez, Carol Schinkel, Steven Schneider, Bill Shaddix, Renee Shisler, Jerry Sieve, Richard Smith, Hal Stewart, Ron Stewart, Suess, Christine Sutherland, Wei Tai, Charles Taube, Robert Thornley, Dave Venell, Scott Wallis, David Wheeler, and Beth Zink.

For 28 years, Thunderbird Artists has played a very important role in uniting gifted artists with patrons across the world by producing award-winning fine art and fine wine festivals. A family-run business, Thunderbird Artists' success prompted the birth of the Arizona Fine Art EXPO nearly six years ago.

Awards and accolades include the **most recent honor of being selected as a finalist in the prestigious 24th Annual Sterling Awards** presented by the Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce in November 2009.

Thunderbird Artists has also received high ratings in the top 100 shows in the nation from prestigious magazines over the last 15 years. In 2007, the ArtFair SourceBook rated the January Carefree Fine Art & Wine Festival as #9 in the nation. In 2008, this same festival was ranked as the #1 Fine Art and Crafts events in the Southwest by Larry Harris. The Harris List is, by far, the most discriminating list available to fine artists and craftsmen. This means that this particular Thunderbird Artists' show is one of the top 100 shows in the nation.

Judith Combs, president and CEO of Thunderbird Artists, has been inducted into Cambridge Who's Who Executive Professional and Entrepreneurial Registry for 2008.

For more details about participating artists or events during the show, call **(480) 837-5637** or visit www.ArizonaFineArtEXPO.com.

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