



## **MEDIA RELEASE – SEPT. 4, 2017**

### **Joshua Tree National Park Art Exposition – Sept. 16 & 17 in Twentynine Palms**

The fifth annual Joshua Tree National Park Art Exposition will take place Sept. 16 and 17 at the Oasis of Mara in Twentynine Palms, CA. The weekend celebration will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday at the 29 Palms Art Gallery and 29 Palms Inn, located off National Park Drive, at the 29 Palms Creative Center at 6847 Adobe Road, and at the Joshua Tree National Park Oasis Visitor Center on National Park Drive at Utah Trail.

A highlight of the expo is an international juried exhibition of artwork inspired by Joshua Tree National Park, which is on display for the month of September at the historic 29 Palms Art Gallery, featuring the work of 63 artists from the desert region and across California, the United States, and abroad.

A gala awards reception will be held for artists and the public on Saturday, Sept. 16, from 5 to 8 p.m. at 29 Palms Art Gallery. Attendees are invited to view the exhibition and enjoy light hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar. Awards totaling \$5,000 will be presented, along with a special Superintendent's Award presented by Joshua Tree National Park Superintendent David Smith. A short film by Jorge Davies will be shown at the conclusion of the awards ceremony.

On Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 16 and 17, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., an Art Market will be held on the lawn at 29 Palms Inn, featuring artists' booths with artwork for sale, food and beverages provided by the Inn, and live music on the lawn by the Luminators and Dana Larsen. A special drawing will be held for all attendees with an opportunity to win original artwork by local artists Chuck Caplinger and Mark Spangenberg.

Art demonstrations for all ages will be offered on the patio at the 29 Palms Art Gallery from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday by artists from the 29 Palms Artists' Guild, Chaparral Artists, and Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council. And the public is invited to participate in a community mosaic mural project at the 29 Palms Creative Center all day Saturday and Sunday, led by artists Salina Phanara and Gretchen Grunt.

Ranger talks will be given at the park's Oasis Visitor Center at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. both days, and naturalist Pat Flanagan will lead "Early Bird" tours of the Oasis of Mara at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

A complete schedule of events is available online at [www.jtnpARTS.org](http://www.jtnpARTS.org) and printed copies are at the Twentynine Palms Visitor Center and Chamber of Commerce, 29 Palms Art Gallery, and various locations in Joshua Tree and Yucca Valley. All events are admission free.

The annual Joshua Tree National Park Art Exposition is presented by Joshua Tree National Park Council for the Arts, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Twentynine Palms.

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