



## **MEDIA RELEASE – SEPTEMBER 19, 2016**

### **Joshua Tree National Park Art Exposition 2016**

#### **AWARDS ANNOUNCED**

The fourth annual Joshua Tree National Park Art Exposition in Twentynine Palms was a successful event over the weekend of Sept. 17 and 18. Nearly 250 people attended the awards reception on Saturday night at the historic 29 Palms Art Gallery, which featured a juried exhibition of artwork inspired by Joshua Tree National Park.

Out of 92 artist entries from California and across the nation, 49 artists were juried into the exhibition, and seven received special awards for their work, with awards totaling more than \$5,000:

First Place Award went to Jaymie Arquilevich of Ojai, CA, for her fabric art piece “A Meeting of Trees.”

Second Place went to Frederick Fulmer of Joshua Tree, for his mixed media “Desert Tracks.”

Third Place was Kim Zarney of Cleveland, Ohio, for his “Joshua Tree” water soluble oil on paper.

Fourth Place went to John Van Vliet of Joshua Tree for his photograph “Critical Mass.”

Honorable Mentions were given to Robert Fogel of Haughton, Louisiana; Larry Percy of Troy, Alabama; Karine Swenson of Joshua Tree; and Echo Westover of Yucca Valley.

The Superintendent’s Award, personally selected by Joshua Tree National Park Superintendent David Smith, was given to Sal Vasquez of Palmdale, CA, for his 8x10 plein-air oil painting “Joshua Tree Sunrise, Headstone Rock.”

Festivities throughout the weekend included art demonstrations at the gallery, a community mural project at the 29 Palms Creative Center, and an Art Market on the lawn at the 29 Palms Inn, with music, food, beverages, and art booths featuring some of the artists in the juried exhibition. In all, an estimated 800 people attended the various events and visited the exhibition over the weekend.

The juried exhibition will remain on display at 29 Palms Art Gallery through Sunday, Oct. 2. The gallery is open 12 to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, and is located at 74055 Cottonwood Drive at the corner of National Park Drive in Twentynine Palms, CA. ([www.29palmsartgallery.com](http://www.29palmsartgallery.com))

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

# # #

PHOTO INFO: Some of the juried exhibition award winners at the Joshua Tree National Park Art Exposition 2016 posed with the Joshua Tree National Park superintendent at the awards reception on Sept. 17. Left to right are John Van Vliet of Joshua Tree, Jaymie Arquilevich of Ojai, Karine Swenson of Joshua Tree, Superintendent David Smith, Echo Westover of Yucca Valley, and Sal Vasquez of Palmdale.  
(Photo by Vickie Waite.)