

# JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK ART EXPOSITION



James Hammons, *Sun Codes*

December 5, 6 & 7, 2014  
Oasis of Mara, Twentynine Palms, CA



[WWW.JTNPARTS.ORG](http://WWW.JTNPARTS.ORG)

# Twentynine Palms, California

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# Joshua Tree National Park Art Exposition

December 5, 6 & 7, 2014

Joshua Tree National Park Art Exposition is a juried art exhibition and three-day celebration of art, culture, and park history at the Oasis of Mara in Twentynine Palms, CA. The 2014 juried art exhibition received entries from 142 artists across the globe. Selected for the exhibition were 53 artists from California, the United States, and as far away as Berlin, Germany, whose artwork depicts or is inspired by the natural beauty and/or cultural history of Joshua Tree National Park. Join us for art and festivities at the historic Oasis of Mara on Dec. 5, 6 & 7, 2014.

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Art Selection Committee: Mita Barter, Ann Congdon, Caryn Davidson, Jimbo Gimson, Art Mortimer, Andy Woods.  
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Exhibition Support: 29 Palms Art Gallery and Artists' Guild.  
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Cover Artwork:  
*Sun Codes*, Mixed Media, 36 x 49, by James Hammons, Joshua Tree  
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Brian Rennie, Benchmark Studios, Joshua Tree

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Joshua Tree National Park Council for the Arts  
Post Office Box 1755  
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

[www.jtnparts.org](http://www.jtnparts.org)

# Event Venues at the Oasis of Mara

In deserts, the presence of water—that rarest of desert commodities—allows life to flourish and provides an oasis for natural and human activity. The **Oasis of Mara** is a cornerstone of the Joshua Tree National Park story and has been a source of life-giving water for thousands of years. The oasis was first settled by the Serrano, who called it Mara, “the place of little springs and much grass.” A line of *Washingtonia filifera* palm trees on the horizon near the oasis signaled water and shade for Serrano, and later Chemehuevi and a few Cahuilla, followed by gold prospectors and cattlemen of the 1870s, desert travelers and homesteaders of the 1900s. Desert surveyors arrived at the oasis around 1855 and found the area under cultivation by the Serrano, with corn, beans, pumpkins, and squash, all grown with the waters that rise at the oasis along the Pinto Mountain Fault. Chemehuevi settled at the oasis in 1867 and intermingled peacefully with the Serrano. Today, it is home to Joshua Tree National Park Headquarters and Oasis Visitor Center, plus several cultural venues.



*The last remaining oasis pond is at the 29 Palms Inn.*

## 29 Palms Inn

73950 Inn Avenue, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277  
(760) 367-3505 • [www.29palmsinn.com](http://www.29palmsinn.com)

The historic 29 Palms Inn sits on 70 acres at the Oasis of Mara. Family-owned and operated for three generations, the Inn has been offering fine food and lodging to desert travelers since 1928. Adobe bungalows, cabins, heated pool, art-filled restaurant, full bar, poolside dining, music nightly, fresh veggies from the Inn’s Faultline Garden are among the amenities. The dining room serves daily lunch, dinner, continental breakfast, and Sunday brunch. Rotating art shows are presented by the Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council. Catered parties and special events are often hosted on the lawn.

[Site of Saturday/Sunday Artist Booths, History Talks, Music, Food and Beverages](#)



## Joshua Tree National Park Headquarters & Oasis Visitor Center

74485 National Park Drive, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277  
(760) 367-5500 • [www.nps.gov/jotr](http://www.nps.gov/jotr)

Joshua Tree National Park receives 1.4 million visitors each year from around the globe, who come to the park for rock climbing, birding, photography, hiking the trails amid monolithic rock formations and Joshua trees, or enjoying the park’s picnic areas and 550 campsites in its nearly 800,000 acres. Ranger-led programs offer interpretive hikes and tours of Keys Ranch. Desert Institute classes include poetry, photography, art. Oasis Visitor Center is open daily.

[Site of Saturday/Sunday Oasis trailhead for Interpretive Walks & Talks.](#)



## Old Schoolhouse Museum

6760 National Park Drive, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277  
(760) 367-2366 • [www.29palmshistorical.com](http://www.29palmshistorical.com)

The 29 Palms Historical Society was founded in 1982. In 1992, they moved the Twentynine Palms 1920s schoolhouse to National Park Drive and remodeled it into the Old Schoolhouse Museum. The museum hosts historical displays, research library, gift shop, an Old Timers’ Gathering in October, the annual Weed Show in November, and Second Friday Lectures from September to June in conjunction with Desert Institute at Joshua Tree National Park. Regular hours are 1 to 4 p.m. Wed.–Sun.

[Site of Saturday/Sunday Historic Art & Artifacts Exhibits](#)



# Event Venues at the Oasis of Mara

## 29 Palms Art Gallery

74055 Cottonwood Drive, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277  
(760) 367-7819 • [www.29palmsartgallery.com](http://www.29palmsartgallery.com)

The historic 29 Palms Art Gallery is owned and operated by 29 Palms Artists' Guild, founded in 1951-52 by famed painter John Hilton and a group of desert artists. In 1963, the Guild purchased a 1930s adobe at the Oasis of Mara (former home of western pulp-fiction author Tom Hopkins), for a permanent art gallery and gift shop. Today, the gallery hosts monthly art shows and receptions September to June, with a summer show open weekends through August, plus events, weekly Paint-Outs, and art classes for youth and adults. Regular hours 12–3 Wed.–Sun. Open extended hours for JTNP Art Exposition.

Site of Juried Art Exhibition and Friday Night Reception



## 29 Palms Creative Center & Gallery

6847 Adobe Road, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277  
(760) 361-1805 • [www.29palmscreativecenter.com](http://www.29palmscreativecenter.com)

The 29 Palms Creative Center offers a variety of activities for children, teens, adults, individuals and groups to experience in a multi-purpose gallery, art studio complex, workshop, and classrooms. Creating with clay, paints, stained glass, printing presses, silk screens, tiles, handmade books and more are offered by artists Gretchen Grunt and Doug Whitfield. The gallery features an eclectic array of local talent, a rotating exhibit by the Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council, art parties, and occasional music and performance art.

Site of Saturday/Sunday Art Demonstrations

## Joshua Tree Visitor Center

6554 Park Blvd., Joshua Tree, CA 92252

(760) 367-5500 • [www.nps.gov/jotr](http://www.nps.gov/jotr) • [www.joshuatree.org](http://www.joshuatree.org)

Joshua Tree National Park Visitor Center in Joshua Tree features a special art exhibit on display through January 29, 2015. Featured are works from the Joshua Tree National Park Artist-in-Residence program, photography from NPS staff at Death Valley National Park, and a “Crazy Cactus” exhibit of sculpture and photography of the Main Street Murals Environmental Arts Youth Program, courtesy of the Desert Discover Center in Barstow. The exhibit celebrates the 20th Anniversary of the California Desert Protection Act.



## Events: December 5, 6 & 7, 2014

Art Classes / Art Demonstrations / Artist Booths / Interpretive Walks & Talks / Music

### FRIDAY, DEC. 5

**Opening Reception and Awards** — Juried Art Exhibition, 29 Palms Art Gallery (5 to 8 p.m.)

*Art Exhibition will remain on display through Dec. 28, 2014*

### SATURDAY, DEC. 6

**Juried Art Exhibition:** 29 Palms Art Gallery (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

**Artist Booths:** 29 Palms Inn (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

**Historical Displays:** Old Schoolhouse Museum

**Interpretive Walks:** JTNP Oasis Visitor Center, Oasis Trail

Photography Walk with Mike Buccheit

**Art Classes:** 29 Palms Art Gallery

“Introduction to Landscape Painting” with Art Mortimer

“Painting Desert Plants” with Darlene Morris

**Art Demonstrations:** 29 Palms Creative Center & Gallery

Glass Demonstration with Doug Whitfield

Clay Wheel Demonstration with Gretchen Grunt

**History Lecture:** 29 Palms Inn (5 p.m.)

**Live Music:** 29 Palms Inn (6 p.m.)

### SUNDAY, DEC. 7

**Juried Art Exhibition:** 29 Palms Art Gallery (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

**Artist Booths:** 29 Palms Inn (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

**Music on the Lawn:** 29 Palms Inn

**Historical Displays:** Old Schoolhouse Museum

**Interpretive Walks:** JTNP Oasis Visitor Center, Oasis Trail

**Nature Walk:** The Faultline Garden, 29 Palms Inn

**Art Classes:** 29 Palms Art Gallery

“Stick Critters” Workshop with Thyrsa Segal

**Art Demonstration:** 29 Palms Creative Center & Gallery

Clay Wheel Demonstration with Gretchen Grunt

**Live Music:** 29 Palms Inn (6 p.m.)

*Complete Event Schedule at: [www.jtnparts.org](http://www.jtnparts.org)*

# Juried Artists 2014

## Steven L. Anderson – Atlanta, GA



*Pirate Flag I*, Fabric, Enamel, Gaffer Tape, Thread, Grommets (double-sided), 60x40

Steven L. Anderson works in a variety of media to explore the nature of power and the power of nature. His current explorations into energy include the combination of physical, emotional, and spiritual forces that surround us. A former resident of Los Angeles (2001-12), he is a 2014-15 Waltham Fellow and is part of the Studio Artists Program at the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center (2013-16). He has exhibited in Atlanta, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Miami, and Chicago. *Pirate Flag I* was designed and constructed during his Joshua Tree National Park Artist-in-Residence in April 2011. Hoisted and flown at Lost Horse ranger station, the flag declared a temporary autonomous zone for melding the spirits of man and nature, experimenting with magic, enhancing awareness, for freedom, and appointing art-making as an activity of supreme value. *Pirate Flag I* belongs to the collection of Joshua Tree National Park. [www.StevenLAnderson.com](http://www.StevenLAnderson.com)

## Robert Arnett – Glendora, California



*Smoketree Serenade*, Oil on Panel, 18x24

Plein-air artist Robert Arnett's fascination with art developed at age 10 when he won 2nd place in a monster drawing contest on the Doodles Weaver's Show on TV in the 1950s. Receiving an oil painting kit that Christmas sealed the deal. After an AA degree at Mount San Antonio College, he landed his first job with a silk screen printing firm and spent the next 35 years in a career of design, print making and competitive creativity. Some 25 years ago he found his niche in landscape painting and has made a name for himself in the Mojave Desert art colony of Wonder Valley, where abandoned homesteads and their historic role has driven him to document their existence before the harsh environment reclaims them. A native Californian born in 1943, Arnett studied at Otis Art Institute, Scottsdale Artist School, and is a member of the California Art Club, Oil Painters of America, 29 Palms Artists' Guild, Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council. [www.RobertArnettFineArt.com](http://www.RobertArnettFineArt.com)

## Dianne Bennett – Ojai, California



*Joshua Tree National Park Art Journal*, Mixed Media Book, 5-1/2 x 8-1/2

an Artist-in-Residence in Joshua Tree National Park. "The silence, solitude, and unstructured time in the desert wilderness gave me a chance to connect to a timelessness that my hectic day-to-day life does not allow. I spent my days drawing, painting, and going on outings with park staff and my evenings art journaling. The experience expanded my understanding of the fragile balance of the desert ecosystem.... My art journal was created during that residency at Lost Horse Ranger Station." [www.diannebennett.net](http://www.diannebennett.net)

Dianne Bennett has exhibited throughout Southern California over the past decade. In 2005, she began painting oil on salvaged metal retablos (celebratory, iconic paintings on salvaged wood or metal) depicting species of flora and fauna threatened by loss of habitat, drought, and other effects of global climate change. In 2009, she was awarded

## Valerie Messervy Birkhoff – San Francisco, California



See More, Beadwork, 33" long x 5" high,

"Beading, drawing, and painting have always been a way of life for me," says artist Valerie Messervy Birkhoff. "I seem to always be packing around some project with me." Birkhoff graduated from Portland State University with a BS in Arts and Letters. She continues classes and "wild solo exploration," and recently moved to San Francisco from the Gila Wilderness of New Mexico where she had lived for 15 years. "During the 1990s I worked for an outdoor education company and spent a lot of time in Joshua Tree National Park. I've been lucky enough to still visit the park on many occasions.... It is my hope to bring appreciation and preservation to our wild places and their occupants through bead and paint. "SeeMore" is a free form, stylized beaded sculpture of a western diamond back rattlesnake." [www.valsworth.com](http://www.valsworth.com)

# Juried Artists 2014



*A Beautiful Place in the Country*, Spray Paint and Acrylic Diptych on MDF, 46 x 11-1/2

is ripe, from lush green Sequoia forests to the golden Pacific coast to the stunning psychedelic panoramas of Death Valley and the Mojave. Immersed in these places, one is beset by a soothing contemplative spirit.... Drawing from rich experiences, these paintings reference the physical elements of land and water, best understood as color. Stripe upon stripe, the paintings reach towards the visceral experience of the landscape. Patterns appear and begin to describe gentle steps, one plane farther away, another past that. Looking, we are called to move into and out of these surfaces, to engage a meditative process.” [www.cxbost.com](http://www.cxbost.com)

## Christopher X Bost – Oakland, California

A 1993 BFA graduate of Atlanta College of Art, Christopher X Bost has exhibited widely in Ohio, Georgia, New York, and California. His recent series is: Beyond–New California Landscapes. “The landscapes of California glitter endlessly... immense vistas constantly pointing towards sublime, simple forms. The palette of this place



*Jumble Rocks*, Oil on Linen, 12x16

## Linda Brown – Claremont, California

Linda Brown, a Southern California native, grew up with equal passions for nature and art. Becoming a professional landscape artist was inevitable. Essentially self-taught in the basics of oil painting, she has studied with several contemporary masters such as Ralph Oberg, Matt Smith, Skip Whitcomb, and Kathleen Dunphy. In a style described as “painterly realism,” she seeks to capture the feeling of a place beyond the obvious details. Her paintings emphasize the effects of light and atmosphere, and celebrate all the varied colors and textures found in nature. “My favorite subjects include the yet unspoiled landscapes of the Western U.S., especially the mountains, deserts, rural and coastal regions of California. More than the subject itself, it is usually the way the sunlight and shadows play on a subject that inspires me to capture it in paint.” Brown has exhibited in national juried exhibitions and invitational museum shows, and her paintings hang in collections throughout the Western U.S. She is a member of the California Art Club. [www.LindaBrownArt.com](http://www.LindaBrownArt.com)



*Oasis of Mara*, Acrylic and Colored Pencil, 20x24

## Naomi Brown – Queen Creek, Arizona

Naomi Brown was born in Palm Springs in 1975 and grew up in Twentynine Palms, CA, on the northern border of Joshua Tree National Park. She now resides in Arizona with her husband and children. Brown is an artist who focuses on desert landscapes and desert animals. She had two pieces of her art chosen for the 20th annual Arts for the Parks exhibition in 2006, and had 11 pieces chosen for the national competitions, Paint the Parks and Paint America, from 2008 to 2011. She paints with acrylic on watercolor paper and occasionally oil on watercolor paper. “My goal with my art is to move the viewer and give them an emotional connection to my paintings. I am very passionate about my desert and the beauty that is all around. Once you let the desert enter your soul, it changes you forever. The desert lets you feel a simplistic, raw freedom that is hard to find. My desert calms me with its peace and beauty.” [www.thewalkingdesert.com](http://www.thewalkingdesert.com)



*Space Spore*, Digital Media, Inkjet Print, 9-1/2 x 36,

## Claudia Bucher – Los Angeles, California

Claudia Bucher is a multimedia artist who works in performance, new media, and carefully constructed sculptural apparatuses and installations to explore ideas about extended sentience. She is interested in the crossover between art, science and technology, architecture, mysticism and science fiction. Her recent work is

inspired by space exploration, the desert environment, plants, DIY culture and recycling. She has an MFA from Art Center College of Design and received a 2006 Individual Artist (COLA) Fellowship from the City of Los Angeles. Bucher has taught at UCLA, Otis College of Art, and Brandeis University where she was Avnet Artist-in-Residence in Sculpture and Media from 2007-09. She has exhibited with the Boston Cyber Arts Festival, Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation, American Textile History Museum, Florida State University, Irvine Fine Arts Center, Carl Berg Projects, Edward Cella Gallery, The Getty, Los Angeles Swiss Consulate, and many other LA venues.

# Juried Artists 2014



## Chuck Caplinger – Twentynine Palms, California

Chuck Caplinger's art career dates back to the 1960s with Tech Productions and RCA Service Co., which held the graphics contract with NASA at George C. Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. He also worked as illustrator and art director of Space Concepts, serving NASA Director Dr. Wernher von Braun's R&D Dept. Returning to Houston in 1965, Caplinger worked in design and illustration, and began his ongoing "Hollywood Faces" series of celebrity portraits. In 1979, Caplinger relocated to Hollywood to work with Lone Star Pictures Intl. In 1987, he married actress Holgie Forrester, and in 1997, they established Desert Art Studio & Gallery in their dome home next to Joshua Tree National Park, where he creates oil paintings of desert landscapes, desert wildlife, portraits, and murals that can be seen in cities throughout California and Texas. His work has been featured in *Southwest Art*, the Hollywood Entertainment Museum, and in the Edward-Dean Museum exhibit "The West—From the Reservation to the Range—A Retrospective" with bronzes by Russell and Remington. In 2009, he designed the iconic "29!" sculpture in Twentynine Palms. [www.DesertArtStudio.com](http://www.DesertArtStudio.com)

*Summer Rainshower*, Oil on canvas, 24 x 36



## Don Chambers – Redlands, California

Don Chambers has been hiking, climbing, and photographing Joshua Tree National Park and throughout the west for 45 years. His early interest in the outdoors led him to an MS in Geography. He was a naturalist in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest for the USFS, taught geology of the national parks at Valley College and Cal Poly, and has spent the last 35 years at Esri. "I always enjoyed the evenings during my hikes and climbs and developed an early interest in night photography. Working in the relatively new medium of light painting and nightscape photography, I have spent hundreds of nights figuring out what works and doesn't work and enjoy sharing this knowledge and results with others." <http://dchambers.smugmug.com>

*Arch Rock with Venus Rising*, Photograph, 30 x 15



## George Comer – Corona, California

Artist George Comer has been exhibiting artwork throughout Southern California for the past 20 years. Originally owner/designer of a ceramic art studio in Palm Desert, CA, he switched from ceramics to painting in 2002 and in the process moved from a representational medium to abstract expression. His paintings are often constructed with oil, acrylic, enamel, latex paint, cement, sand, clay, even espresso grounds. "I just started mixing things into the paint," Comer said in a 2005 San Diego *Union-Tribune* interview. "I needed the textural effects I got in ceramics. I kind of brought ceramic textures to paintings. I call them paintings, but they have a lot of sculptural scarring and other ceramic qualities, including glazing." Comer was featured in "George Comer: A Ten-Year Retrospective" solo exhibition curated by Peter Frank at Riverside Art Museum in 2009. His more than 100 exhibitions include Chaffey Community Museum of Art; Bunny Gunner Art Gallery in Pomona; Redlands Art Assn.; Santa Monica Art Museum; L2kontemporary in L.A.; and work in the permanent collection of Joshua Tree National Park.

*Passersby*, Mixed Media, 48 x 48



## Janis Commentz – Yucca Valley, California

Janis Commentz is a Southern California native who lives next to Joshua Tree National Park. She has a BA from University of Redlands and studied with tapestry artist John Nava at Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles. She holds an MA in Education from CSUSB and teaches art classes at 29 Palms Art Gallery. She facilitates life drawing in Joshua Tree and exhibits at Joshua Tree Art Gallery and Gallery 62. Commentz exhibited in the Hwy 62 Open Studio Art Tours 2014 for the sixth year, Joshua Tree National Park Juried Art Exhibition 2013, JTNP Association's Spring Art Festival, California State University/San Bernardino Art Fair, and Six Chicks "Pop Up" Gallery in Joshua Tree. In 2014, she was featured in a two-artist show at Glass Outhouse Art Gallery and a solo show at 29 Palms Art Gallery. "35 years of living and teaching in the high desert has taught me to appreciate open space, the incredible sunlit vistas, sunrises and sunsets, and the unique desert flora. I am also fascinated by the human form and its interaction with the environment." [www.janiscommentz.com](http://www.janiscommentz.com)

*Olivia at Joshua Tree*, Acrylic on Canvas, 16x20



# Juried Artists 2014



*Climbers Rocks 1*, Oil on Board, 20 x 24

## Jane S. Culp – Anza, California

Artist Jane Culp works in oil, charcoal, and watercolor. Her exhibitions over the past 20 years range from Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania to the National Academy of Design, Queens College of CUNY, Bowery Gallery, and The Painting Center in New York; to Riverside Art Museum and Palm Springs Art Museum. Her work representing Yosemite National Park has been included in “Yosemite: Art of an American Icon” 2006-2007 at Museum of the American West, Autry National Center, Los Angeles, traveling to Oakland Museum and Nevada Museum of Art; as well as “25 Years of Artist Residencies” 2009 and “Yosemite Renaissance 27” second place award 2013 at Yosemite Museum. In 2013-2014, her exhibition “Jane Culp: Earthquake Country” was featured at Bowery Gallery in New York City and Rider University Art Gallery in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. Culp’s work has appeared in *New York* magazine and *Art of the National Parks: Historic Connections, Contemporary Interpretations*, Yosemite section.



*Late Winter Snow*, Photograph, 20 x 30

## Marc Evans – Hermosa Beach, California

Driven by a general moodiness, Marc Evans works in the small windows of time allowed by sunsets, twilight, or the cloud cover that comes from a passing storm. A fourth-generation Californian, Evans was born on Route 66 in Upland, CA, and has been fascinated with the geology and landscape of the state since childhood. While specializing in fine art prints of his dynamic landscapes and seascapes, Evans is also widely known for images of vintage urban neon and architecture, and has been involved in photographing the underground club scene in Los Angeles. An active member of the Southern California *Burning Man* community, he also provides event photography and portraiture services to a growing number of clients. “My work explores the relationship between postmodern discourse and urban spaces. With influences as diverse as Hunter S. Thompson and William Eggleston, my images are distilled from both simple and complex textures.”



*Cholla World*, Acrylic, Photo Transfer on Canvas, 20 x 54

## Frederick Fulmer – Joshua Tree, California

Fred Fulmer moved to Joshua Tree in 2000 to set up an art studio and explore the wonders of Joshua Tree National Park. “This magical landscape called to me and brought forth a renewed creative energy to produce new works of art. The light, open space, and quiet captured my attention and allowed for reflection on life’s challenges.” Fulmer’s work involves the use of color and texture in abstract forms. “The original paintings I produced in the desert were based on the lichen forms found on the boulders throughout Joshua Tree. A memorable encounter with Noah Purifoy and his outdoor museum inspired me to incorporate found objects from the desert landscape.” Recent pieces use photo image transfers of plants and landscape with abstract elements inspired by the Mojave Desert. In 2009, he founded the Joshua Tree Art Gallery (JTAG) with local artists. He curated a plein-air exhibition at JTAG to benefit Mojave Desert Land Trust’s preservation of desert wilderness. In 2007, he started Joshua Tree Highlands Artist Residency ([www.jthar.com](http://www.jthar.com)), which provides free living and studio space for artists from all over the world so they can experience the Mojave.



*Layers #318*, Ceramic Sculpture, 8x7x6

## John Greenfield – Yucca Valley, California

John Greenfield has his BA in Geology with an Art minor. His ceramic sculptures reflect his interest in mineral structures and erosion processes. He has shown his art at the 29 Palms Art Gallery, College of the Desert, Desert Art Center in Palm Springs, A Roadside Attraction in Twentynine Palms, and Woods in the Desert Gallery in Joshua Tree. For the past eight years, he has exhibited his art in the Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council’s annual Hwy 62 Open Studio Art Tours. Greenfield’s ceramic sculptures were featured in the Joshua Tree National Park Art Show and Faire 2013, and his ceramic entry garnered an Artist Award in the juried art exhibition.

# Juried Artists 2014

## Coco Hall – Joshua Tree, California



*Clovis Point with Organdy Cover*, Papier Mache, Mixed Media, 21x46x9

After graduating from Bennington College, Vermont, where she majored in sculpture, Coco Hall founded a cottage industry which produced stuffed toys and winged baseball caps. Her popular vegetables and fruits called Vegimals have developed a cult following, and her Peas in a Pod toy was featured in the 2010 movie *Toy Story 3*. Both Coco Hall's toy designing and her 20 years as an environmental and animal rights activist inform her current work in many ways, including humor and materials used such as fabric, papier mâché, and ceramic. Today, she maintains an art studio in Joshua Tree, CA. She shows occasionally in Palm Springs and regularly in Joshua Tree at the Joshua Tree Art Gallery. She opened a solo show at the EN EM Art Space in Sacramento in November 2014. [www.cocohall.com](http://www.cocohall.com)

## Shawn Hall – New Orleans, Louisiana



*"Untitled" [3 Seeds]* – 30x30 Acrylic on Clayboard

Born in Ann Arbor, MI, Shawn Hall has lived and worked in New Orleans for the past 16 years. She holds an MFA from Maryland Institute College of Art, Mount Royal School, where she was a Patricia Harris Fellow; a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago; and an AS in Science from Delta College in MI (whose underpinnings have never left). Residencies include School 33, LMCC, 18th Street Art Center, and Santa Fe Art Institute, along with several educational institutions (Duke University, Brown University, Vanderbilt University) for collaborative installation/performance with Pearl Damour entitled *How To Build A Forest*. Exhibitions include the CAC and the Ogden Museum of Southern Art in New Orleans; Wolfson Gallery at Miami Dade; N.A.M.E. in Chicago; The Kitchen, The Hewitt Gallery, and Bronx River Art Center in NYC; Van Brunt Gallery in Beacon, NY; G.U.M+D in Dallas; Williams Tower Gallery in Houston; Red Arrow Gallery in Joshua Tree, CA & Nashville, TN; and Chateau de La Napoule, Mandelieu, France. Her work is in collections in the U.S. and Europe.

[www.shawnhall.org](http://www.shawnhall.org)

## James Hammons – Joshua Tree, California



Artist James Hammons is interested in the space between the reality we perceive now and the abstract we consider later. Utilizing a wide array of mixed mediums, Hammons feels that capturing images in this precise energetic moment between "here" and "there" offers the best insight into beauty and spirituality, something he believes is what is most worth living for—the purpose in what would be otherwise a purposeless existence. From love, to death, and all in between, the miracle of perception is beauty, no matter the form of human existence, and, thus, Hammons' art. He was educated at University of Redlands and received an MA at University of Southern California. He lives and works in Joshua Tree, CA, and has exhibited in numerous galleries and private homes from India, England, Germany, Spain, New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and his home town of Joshua Tree. Hammons is also a screenwriter, having adapted for theatrical screenplay best-selling novels by such renowned artists as F. Scott Fitzgerald, Sydney Sheldon, and Jackie Collins.

[www.JamesHammonsArts.com](http://www.JamesHammonsArts.com)

*Sun Codes*, Mixed Media, 36x49

## Deborah Hobbs – San Luis Obispo, California



*Skeleton of the Earth*, Digital Photograph, 16x11

An artist since age five, Deborah Hobbs went back to school when her son was an infant, "taking every art class offered at Laney College in Oakland, CA." She exhibited at Grand Oak Gallery in Oakland from 1985-1990; worked at Crestmont School in Richmond as an aide and art teacher for 1st–2nd grades; taught ceramics, printmaking, and painting; and, with a degree in psychology, was an art therapist for adults in a transitional living institution in Inglewood, CA. She was represented by Bob Braun at Artisans Gallery & Framing in Hanford, CA 1999-2003, and has shown at Gallery at Marina Square in Morro Bay and Art Central in San Luis Obispo. Hobbs participated in San Francisco Art and Jazz Festival 1990, Marin Farmers Market and Crafts 1989-1992; Art in the Park in Morro Bay 2002; and Dinosaur Caves Art in Shell Beach, CA 2008. Digital photography is now her main form of expression, plus watercolor illustrations for two books: *Caught Between Two Worlds*, and *The Happy Book* for children. [www.deborahhobbs.blogspot.com](http://www.deborahhobbs.blogspot.com)

# Juried Artists 2014



*A Hasty Escape*, Oil on Paper, 30x30

## Michael Hornyak – Tujunga, California

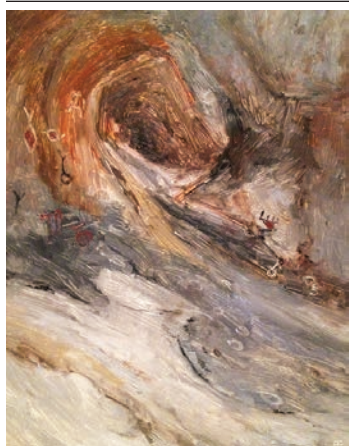
Artist Michael Hornyak received his BFA from West Virginia University and MFA from Illinois State University in printmaking. He was a teaching assistant at Illinois State University 1996 to 1999, a printmaking instructor at Academy of Art University in San Francisco 2002 to 2008, and has been a school touring docent at Los Angeles County Museum of Art since 2010. Hornyak also served as Gallery Registrar and Gallery Preparator at Del Mano Gallery in Los Angeles, 2006 to 2012, and has served since 2013 as Gallery Technician at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. Hornyak specializes in paintings, prints, works on paper, and his areas of expertise are drawing and printmaking fundamentals, art history, art instruction, and installations. Moving in 1999 from the Midwest to San Francisco, “ended 29 years of rural living among cornfields, dirt roads, and vast open spaces; it also marked my transition into the prevalent artistic landscape at the heart of San Francisco.... My current artistic objective is an exploration of the effects of time on the constructed world.” [www.mhornyak.com](http://www.mhornyak.com)



*One Happy Joshua Tree*, Oil, 8x8

## Rose Ireland – Poway, California

Rose Ireland is a fine artist and art educator, who earned her BA degree in Illustration, with a minor in Fine Art, from Columbus College of Art and Design in Ohio. She has lived in California since 1985. After a 20-year career as art director and graphic designer, in 2003 she left the commercial art world to follow her passion for painting and teaching. It was then she founded RoseArt Atelier, which provides art instruction in classical painting, drawing, and illustration to children, teens, and adults. Ireland is a landscape and plein-air painter as well as a portrait and figurative painter, who focuses on the play of light and color. Her use of color, design, and brushmanship has been described as soulful, brave, and impressionistic. In 2014, she was juried into the California Art Club’s 2014 “Quintessential California” Show, and the Crested Butte Plein Air Invitational in Colorado, where she painted for 2 weeks with some of the most accomplished landscape painters in the country. Her work is represented at Oh-Ber-Joyful Gallery in Crested Butte, CO; Borrego Art Institute in Borrego Springs, and La Jolla Art Association Gallery in La Jolla CA. [www.roseartatelier.com](http://www.roseartatelier.com)



*Joshua Tree Pictographs*, Oil on Masonite, 11x14

## E.E. Jacks – Norwalk, California

The paintings of E.E. Jacks capture life in motion. “Art is Life” is the motto for all of her work, and no subject is off limits. E.E. Jacks was born in Long Beach, CA. Her heritage is French and Hispanic, and a variety of cultures and the environment influence much of her work. She has studied art in France and the United States, and considers herself a self-educated artist, learning from old masters’ paintings and through self-experience. She practices plein-air painting and also does studio work daily. “Nature has always been the greatest teacher for me, never predictable and ever-changing.” She favors using traditional oil paint over any other medium. Her work is described as realist impressionist, and her focus of late has been nocturnes. Jacks is a resident artist at the Magoski Art Colony in Fullerton, CA, and is an Associate Artist member of the California Art Club. [www.eejacksart.com](http://www.eejacksart.com)



*Picnic at Hanging Rock*, Glazed Stoneware, Steel, Sand, Plaster, Wood base, 22x22x16

## Caroline PM Jones – Culver City, California

Artist Caroline PM Jones journeyed into the Mojave Desert to interact with the “monolithic, ancient, and immovable” for her latest project “Formations.” To create a series of strikingly organic works using stone, pastel, clay, oil paint and video, the artist spent countless hours and days with her subjects in the Mojave: “Like the Formations themselves, I exposed myself to the wind, the heat, and the sounds of the desert. What stays with me is the novelty of these miraculous forms and how they have come together. The way I’ve composed the pieces relates to the spatial conditioning of the groupings. Like a family grown together, or breaking apart, they stand or lie in various stages of light—unified, cracked, broken, yet still proud and strong.” The act of carving the “Formations” out of stone was a journey in itself. The sculpting allowed the artist to travel across surfaces, spending time in the crevices, cutting the stone, chiseling the shapes and sanding the form. The fired clay sculptures have purposefully undergone a process similar to the actual life cycle of the Mojave monoliths. [www.cpmjones.com](http://www.cpmjones.com)

# Juried Artists 2014



*Desert Queen II, Watercolor, 27x39*

## Gerhard Kammer – Studio City, California

Gerhard Kammer learned watercolor as part of his architectural schooling, as well as tempera illustration, charcoal and pen-and-ink drawing. He obtained an MA in Architecture from Cranbrook Academy of Art in 1974. His designs have been built in China, the Middle East, and the U.S. After 40 years of honing design skills, in April 2011 he retired from architecture to pursue fine art. Kammer began painting in 1994 at his hand-built Joshua Tree studio. He now lives in Studio City and Joshua Tree, painting the desert and Ventura Harbor. He has exhibited his award-winning work in prestigious exhibitions including the 46th Watercolor West Juried Exhibit, San Diego Watercolor Society 34th International Exhibition, Louisiana Watercolor Society 44th International Exhibition in 2014; the National Watercolor Society Member Exhibit 2013, and Joshua Tree National Park Juried Art Show 2013. [www.GerhardKammer.com](http://www.GerhardKammer.com)

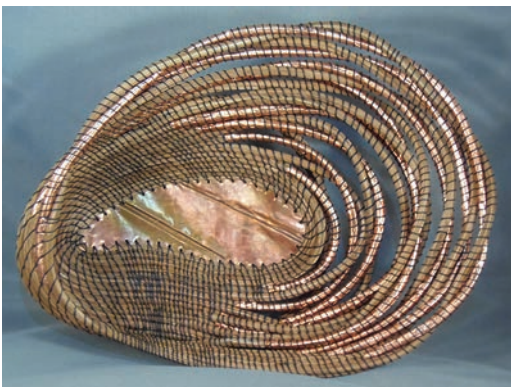


*Cap Rock Approach, Plein-Air Watercolor, 18x44*

## Anahita King – Joshua Tree, California

Anahita King works in ceramics and plein-air painting in watercolors. "Painting on location is the expression of my daily meditation practice. Working outdoors in the changing light creates a sense of urgency that forces decisions to be made in rapid succession, and forces risks to be taken. I find that intensity gives a sense of freshness and vibrancy to my painting practice." King received a BFA in Visual Communications in 1980 from Northern Arizona University,

Flagstaff, AZ. She was Artist-in-Residence in 2002 at Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park, The Institute of Ceramic Studies, Shigaraki, Japan. Her recent exhibitions and awards include the ACE: 2013 Artists Council Member Juried Exhibition at Palm Springs Art Museum, Bobette and Fred Bird Cash Prize Award for Plein-Air Watercolor; and 29 Palms Art Gallery Southland Juried Show 2012, Twentynine Palms, CA, first place for Plein-Air Watercolor. King is Plein Air Instructor for the Desert Institute at Joshua Tree National Park. She also teaches ceramics and opens her Joshua Tree studio for the annual Hwy 62 Art Tours. [www.AnahitaKing.com](http://www.AnahitaKing.com)



*Expanding Influences, Sculptural Basketry, 9x7x4-1/2*

## Kathi Klopfenstein – Yucca Valley, California

Kathi Klopfenstein was raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and moved to the desert after completing her art degree. She retired after teaching high school for 35 years, 32 of which were at a continuation high school where she taught art, math, and guidance. Her introduction to basket making occurred in 1996 when she took a pine needle basketry class at the Idyllwild Arts adult summer program. Since then she has explored a variety of basketry and gourd techniques and has studied basketry with over 20 nationally and internationally known basket artists. Starting with functional baskets, her work has evolved into sculptural pieces of art, frequently following organic lines. Klopfenstein is a member of the board of directors of the National Basketry Organization and has received awards from the Los Angeles County Fair, San Bernardino County Fair, California State Fair, Del Mar Fair, California Gourd Society. Exhibitions include Desert Art Center, Palm Springs; 29 Palms Art Gallery; Joshua Tree Art Gallery; and ArtFX Gallery, Yucca Valley, CA. [www.bearcourt.com](http://www.bearcourt.com)



*Soaring Hunter, Collage, 18x24*

## Anne Lear – Twentynine Palms, California

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Anne Lear attended Immaculate Heart College in Los Angeles, received a BS at University of San Francisco, and received her MA from Notre Dame University. She is retired from a 43-year career of teaching art in elementary and high school. Lear has lived in California and New Mexico and moved to Twentynine Palms in 1994, where she had visited all of her life as other family members lived in the area (*hence Lear Avenue*). Lear is a member of the Twentynine Palms Artists' Guild, Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council, Chaparral Artists, and San Diego Watercolor Society. "The desert is an endless inspiration for my paintings of scenery, animals, and plants. Sunrises and sunsets are never the same in the desert. They inspire gorgeous coloring." As for collage, she says: "My collages are made mostly of cut or torn colored areas from magazines. These paper scraps provide a ready-made variation of colors that would be difficult to mix with paint. Handmade oriental papers and hand-painted tissue papers are also used. Gilded sunsets and sunrises were inspired by sheets of gold leaf given to me by a Vietnamese student." [www.AnneLearArtist.com](http://www.AnneLearArtist.com)

# Juried Artists 2014

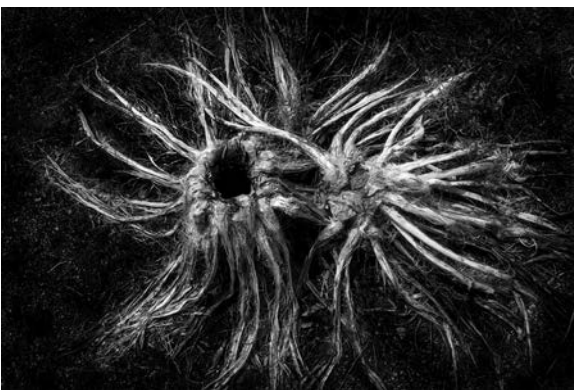
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*Barker Dam, Photograph, 36x24*

## Daniel Lee – Yucca Valley, California

Daniel Lee was born in 1990 in Palm Springs, California. He combines his knowledge of and fascination with technology to produce work in variety of disciplines, including photography and filmmaking. He uses his technical skill in post-processing to create visually engaging images. Barker Dam, as seen in this photograph, is located near the historic Keys' Desert Queen Ranch in Joshua Tree National Park.



*Till Death, Photograph, 24x16*

## Greg Lucker – Wildomar, California

Photographer Greg Lucker has developed his craft over the years, from portraits, weddings, and rock concerts, to fine tuning his skills with landscapes and nature. He has been published often for his ability to capture, what he calls "that moment" during a concert performance, and has had two gallery showings of his concert work, most recently at the Merc in Old Town Temecula, CA. One selection from his concert gallery earned him museum credit at The Grammy Museum in Los Angeles, and selections from his landscape gallery have been published by the California State Parks, including their 2011 calendar. Lucker now owns Gallery in the Pines in Idyllwild, CA, featuring his landscape and nature work and concert photography. "In capturing my images I look for locations that will be familiar, or comfortable to the viewer. I chose a simplistic approach, which I feel allows the photograph to be enjoyed, easy to look at, and in some cases, may awaken their memory. [www.therockimage.com](http://www.therockimage.com)



## Tanner McGuire – Yucca Valley, California

Tanner McGuire was born in San Diego in 1977. His painting is a distillation of complex personal and social issues through the confines of two-dimensional media. He studied studio art at California State University, San Bernardino, and lives and works in Yucca Valley, CA. "The act of painting is a way for me to understand the things in life that I don't understand. Very rarely is there a predetermined destination in my work. I paint to find meaning. I use the process of art to try to make sense of the world around me. Life is unclear, and art is an unclear voice, a visual medium. I chose painting as my focus because of the traditionally limited scope of a work. Within the frame of a painting one must search for, and define, meaning. Therefore, I approach my work with a determination to participate in the process that creates art: making the painting panels or canvas, preparing the work space, organizing the paints and tools, applying medium to the surface of the painting, all of which is a meditative process, the philosophical construct that allows me to break into a non-thinking, inspired space where ideas flow freely and unbidden." [www.tannerjohnmcguire.com](http://www.tannerjohnmcguire.com)

*Joshua Tree Landscape, Acrylic, Ink, Chalk, Spray Paint, 4-ft x 5-ft*



## Robert Miramontes – Desert Hot Springs, California

Robert Miramontes has been a permanent resident of Southern California since birth, and has spent nearly his entire life exploring, rock climbing, and photographing Joshua Tree National Park. He has written four books on Joshua Tree rock climbing, and has plans for branching out with a variety of other publications on the park. His extensive collection of Joshua Tree National Park photography spans 25 years, chronicling a near fanatical obsession to explore every canyon and crevice, and to climb every cliff and summit. Miramontes, his wife Christina, and their daughter Alexandra, live in nearby Desert Hot Springs, just half a mile from the park's western boundary.

*Charcoal and Adrenaline, Photograph, 16x24*

# Juried Artists 2014



*Canyon Land*, Laminated Cedar  
Wood Sculpture, 22x7x10

## Eva Montville – Joshua Tree, California

A professional sculptor for more than 50 years, Eva Montville's artwork has been exhibited in the United States and the Middle East since the 1960s. Her artistic expression is rooted in her love of nature, especially the desert. "I grew up in Egypt and lived about half of my life as an adult in North African and Middle Eastern countries, which has influenced my work and helps explain my deep connection with the forms and spaces of the desert. When I first came to Joshua Tree in 1987, I felt I had come home. I was a wilderness instructor in Joshua Tree National Monument for several years, and have been living in Joshua Tree for the last 10 years. The park has inspired and informed my work. The desert wilderness is where I feel most deeply connected, and my art is an attempt to express something of this emotion that, for me, is beyond words. While my sculptures reflect the beauty of the earth forms I love in nature, they are also metaphors for inner landscapes. I want each sculpture to look like something you might find on a walk in the wilderness, an object worn by wind and water." [www.EvaMontville.com](http://www.EvaMontville.com)



## Vann Nguyen – Sacramento, California

Danh Vann Nguyen was born in Nha Trang Vietnam, grew up in New Orleans, and currently splits his time between California's central valley and high desert of Southern California. In addition to maintaining an art practice, he has worked professionally in design and architecture, and has taught at California College of the Arts, UC Davis, and Art Institute of Sacramento. He holds a BFA from California College of the Arts, San Francisco, and an MA in Architecture from UCLA. "My current work is interested in exploring the world that Francis Bacon referred as the 'space between sensation and rationality.' The work depicts imaginary constructions and occupations of architecture and landscape. While influenced by modernist abstraction and American minimalism, I am not interested in rigorous rationality. The work provides fleeting glimpses into the 'forces of partiality, difference, decomposition, and transformation' that lay dormant beneath the perfection of geometry and form, uncovering the exigencies of humanity's attempt to reign in nature. The work parallels my experience straddling the worlds of architecture/design and art." [www.vannnguyen.com](http://www.vannnguyen.com)

*Distant Horizons—Elevation*, Mixed Media, 24x36



*Doolittle House—Moonrise*, Prismacolor Pencil,  
Acrylic, Luminous on Canvas, 20x16

## Jenifer Palmer-Lacy – Los Angeles, California

Originally from Texas, Jenifer Palmer-Lacy has been creating enchanting landscapes of Southern California and American national parks for over 30 years. She completed her BA and MA in Humanities degrees at California State University, Dominguez Hills, after working as a production artist in Houston and Los Angeles. She moved part time to Joshua Tree in 2000. "Since I saw *The Living Desert* on Walt Disney's *Wonderful World of Color*, I was determined to explore, if not reside, in the Desert Southwest. I have been coming to Joshua Tree to draw and paint Skull Rock since the '80s and always find some new way to interpret the rock formations in the area. When I earned my B.A. and started teaching school in L.A., I celebrated by buying a redwood weekend house in Joshua Tree and have come out on weekends and vacations ever since. Desert architecture is also a particular fascination for me, especially Kendrick Bangs Kellogg's Doolittle House and modern designs by John Lautner and the Wrights."

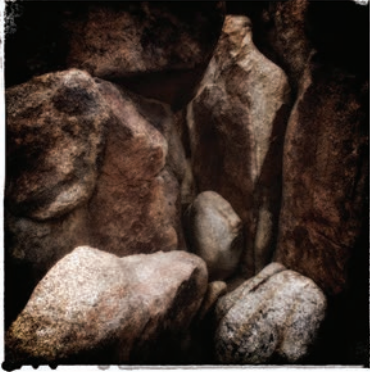


*The Miner*, Oil on Card, 16x19

## Olivia Parkes – Berlin, Germany

Olivia Parkes is an internationally exhibiting British-American artist. She grew up in Los Angeles and graduated with high honors in Studio Art and Art History from Wesleyan University in 2011. In 2013 she was awarded first place in the Art Lab "About Face" competition, and she spent March 2014 as the Joshua Tree National Park Artist-in-Residence. She receives online gallery representation with Art Fetch. Parkes now studies at the Universität der Künste in Berlin, where she currently lives and works. "These paintings were made during my time as the Joshua Tree Artist-in-Residence in March 2014. My project there engaged the park's history: I spent time in the park archive sorting through photographs of original miners and homesteaders and old family albums from Bill and Francis Keys, and developed a body of paintings and collages based around these figures.... The work made in Joshua Tree emerged from my fascination with California's unique brand of historical memory. As a young state and the 'end' of the frontier, the past is made vivid by its temporal proximity to the present and simultaneously obscured by its status in American myth." [www.oliviaparkes.com](http://www.oliviaparkes.com)

# Juried Artists 2014



Figure, Photograph, 15x15,  
Archival Inkjet Print, 17x22

## Drew Reese – Joshua Tree, California

Photographer Drew Reese was born in Annapolis, Maryland, in 1947 and was raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, where he later studied photography at San Francisco State and UC Berkeley, and exhibited his work in group shows in the Bay Area. A Joshua Tree resident since 2000, he is co-owner of Spin and Margie's Desert Hide-a-Way in Joshua Tree. When not running his business with his wife, Drew spends time in Joshua Tree National Park and the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve photographing the landscape. His challenge is to see the "familiar" in a unique way—alert to the shapes, textures, and colors as he travels through the landscape, sometimes moving in close in order to see more abstractly, other times only focusing on the light and the form. He pre-visualizes how the photo might look when printed. In some of his more painterly photographs he uses various filters, textures, and borders in post processing to achieve the effect he is looking for. Each picture tells its own story. This photograph is from a series of black-and-white, square-formatted studies of various rock outcroppings in the Hidden Valley area of Joshua Tree National Park. [www.DrewReesePhoto.com](http://www.DrewReesePhoto.com)



Lichen, Oil on Canvas, 12x12

## Esther Shaw – Yucca Valley, California

Artist Esther Shaw has been living and painting in the desert since 2004. She was born and raised in Boston, graduated from Massachusetts College of Art, BFA with a painting major, and followed with graduate art classes at University of Arizona, Tucson, and education at UC Irvine. She has worked as an architectural illustrator and as art teacher for public schools and community colleges, including Copper Mountain College. Shaw has been an exhibiting artist with SCA Project Gallery and Gallery 57, Pomona, CA; exhibitor/studio holder of The Santora Arts Building, Santa Ana; selected in 2004 for Envisioning The Future Project, under the direction of Judy Chicago, and owner of The Spezzano Gallery, Long Beach. "My paintings are about a presence, or a sense of place, and our tie with the life forces of the universe. I paint in an attempt to better understand and comprehend the stimulus of my environment.... It is the magic of paint to canvas and the image appearing that keeps me involved in this activity. I leave much to chance and instinct, with the hope that I will recognize the real elements and character of the subject and it will evolve into the work that I'm after." [www.EstherShawsArt.com](http://www.EstherShawsArt.com)



## Jeff Skelly – Sunland, California

Southern California artist Jeff Skelly graduated from Cal State Northridge in 1989 and continued his studies at the California Art Institute and UCLA Extension. With over 20 years of experience and widely collected on three continents, Skelly continues to find expression in the beauty of the natural world. He has exhibited in numerous venues such as the Palm Springs Art Museum, the National Arts Club in New York, and many other juried shows. Most recently he was awarded the first place blue ribbon at the 2013 Yosemite Renaissance XXVIII competition at the Yosemite Museum in Yosemite National Park. He also conducts plein-air workshops and teaches classical painting. "As a child, my most memorable experiences were on summer camping trips to the Sierras. The vast landscapes, towering peaks, and stunning beauty left lasting impressions. Over time I learned how to merge that love of nature with my desire to create. With the use of bold brushwork and unique color harmonies, my paintings are not only faithful representations of places I've been but spiritual impressions as well." [www.jeffskellyart.com](http://www.jeffskellyart.com)

Ocotillo in Field, Pastel, 12x16

## Bob Solete – Forest Hills, New York



Male Model Bob Solete on Location Near the Little San Bernardino Mountains, Digital Fauxtography, 20x30

Bob Solete's work has been exhibited in shows in New York, New Jersey, and at LACDA—Los Angeles Center for Digital Art. Since 2010, he has travelled the southwest, criss-crossing the Mojave, Colorado, and Sonoran deserts. "As a New Yorker inspired by the desert landscape and motivated by site visits to iconic earth art of the 1970s, I have been pursuing a project that explores the invisibility of 330 miles of the San Andreas Fault, California's most defining geology, from the Salton Sea to the Carrizo Plain. In June, I drove the length of Dillon Road from Indio to Desert Hot Springs, documenting the fault line to the west and Little San Bernardino Mountains to the east in 'fauxtographs,' digital mosaics that combine the real into the unreal. These images reflect my continued interest in the park's boundaries and outskirts [such as in a 1985 performance piece when I circumnavigated the park without entering it] and in the tectonic forces that shaped its terrain." [www.bobsolete.neoimages.com](http://www.bobsolete.neoimages.com)

# Juried Artists 2014



*Gneiss—Joshua Tree National Park, Pen & Homemade Ink, 6-1/2x10-1/2*

## Mark Spangenberg – Twentynine Palms, California

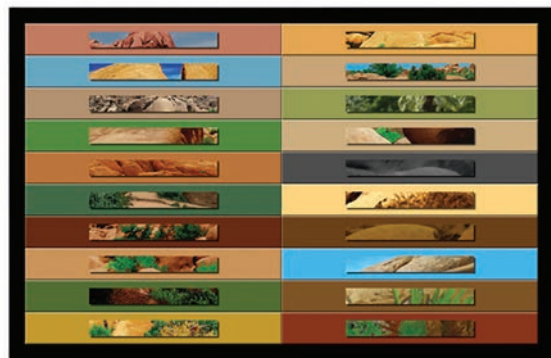
Mark Spangenberg is known as a contemporary realist. He studied at Art Center College of Design, receiving a B.A. in Illustration in 1985, where his instructors were illustrating for the movies, advertising, and transportation industry in Los Angeles. In 1980, he studied fresco painting in Salzburg, Austria, with master artist Robert Scherer from Bolzano, Italy, where he was introduced to painting into fresh plaster (true fresco). Born and raised in Twentynine Palms, Spangenberg worked as a billboard painter in Palm Springs; assisted with fresco painter Benjamin Long IV and Charles Kapsner; and has continued portrait, mural, historical, landscape commissions. He has also done TV courtroom sketching, and taught at the Sawtooth School of Visual Art in Winston-Salem, The Wesleyan Academy, the Art Alliance in Greensboro, NC, and privately. [www.MarkSpangenbergFineArt.com](http://www.MarkSpangenbergFineArt.com)



*Sentinel, Oil, 30x40*

## Richard Sparks – Hesperia, California

Artist Richard Sparks was born in Fort Worth, Texas, and received his BA in Architecture Design from Texas A&M University. He was awarded a scholarship to the Art Center College of Design, California, where he received his BFA in Illustration, with Distinction. There, he met and married fellow artist, Barbara Sparks. The newlyweds traveled to Europe, worked in the freelance illustration market, and set up a permanent residence in Amsterdam. After three years they returned to the States to Fairfield County, Connecticut, and began working in the New York City art market. Sparks has received commissions in New York City for major periodicals and publishing houses. Five of his 25 commissioned portraits for TIME magazine are in the permanent collection of the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. Another painting for TIME, for Harvard's 300th year anniversary, is in the permanent collection of the Harvard Club in New York City. Sparks' work is represented in the permanent collections of ExxonMobil, Academy of Art College in San Francisco, Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Texas A&M University, Time-Life, the National Archives, and Seattle Opera. His paintings have been reproduced as limited edition prints, posters, and U.S. postage stamps.



*Joshua Tree—16a, Photograph, Digital Art, 36x24*

## Howard Spector – So. Pasadena, California

Howard Spector's work in photography and digital media explores the tensions between figuration and abstraction inherent in the photographic medium, challenging the notion of photography as a purely representational form. He received his MFA in Photography from State University of New York at Buffalo (Visual Studies Workshop), Rochester, NY. His work has been exhibited internationally since 1975. Selected collections include Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris; IBM Collection, New York; Visual Studies Workshop Collection; Photographers Gallery, London; and private collections in U.S. and Europe. "In my work I continue to explore the intersection of landscape, abstraction, color, photography and painting. I use the camera image as a starting point from which to manipulate a picture toward abstraction.... a new non-linear, but connected narrative, that speaks about place and ultimately our transitory and elusive experience of it." [www.howarddeanspector.com](http://www.howarddeanspector.com)

## Melissa Spurr – Joshua Tree, California



Melissa Spurr lives in Joshua Tree, CA, where she renovates homes, markets real estate, and creates art. A lifelong artist, she works with a variety of media, including photography, paint, collage, paper, clay, and recycled materials. She is a member of the Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council, Joshua Tree Art Gallery, and the Palm Springs Artists Council. One of her sculptures will be included in the 2014 ACE—Artists Council Exhibition at the Palm Springs Art Museum. "Barrel Fever" is inspired by the flurry of flight that enlivens the springtime air in Joshua Tree National Park and by the profusion of blossoms that color the tops of spine-furred barrel cacti. "I'm especially awed by the tiny hummingbirds who buzz by with wings blurred by frenetic speed. This sculpture is an ode to the extravagance of springtime in the desert. This 22"x22"x22" sculpture is made from the pages of approximately 25 vintage (1970s and 1980s) *National Geographic* magazines. The multiple hummingbird and dragonfly wings are meant to emulate the way whirring wings are blurred to the human eye."

*Barrel Fever, Recycled Paper Sculpture, 22x22x22*



# Juried Artists 2014



*Predator*, Oil on canvas, 40x30

## Karine Swenson – Joshua Tree, California

Karine Swenson grew up just outside Rapid City in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The closest neighbor to the family home was a mile away. Reared in this environment, Swenson's connection with the natural world was strong. She has spent most of her life in small towns that sit right next to the last remaining bits of wilderness: the mountains of Colorado, the ocean surrounding Maui, Hawaii, and now the desert near Joshua Tree, CA. Swenson feels the most at home out in nature. In the studio, her second home, she can explore her relationship with the natural world. Her oil paintings are reflections of this relationship. Swenson has been a full-time artist for the past ten years, and her work has been represented in California galleries including Metro Galleries in Bakersfield, Art of Framing in San Diego, JTAG in Joshua Tree, and annually since 2008 in the Hwy 62 Open Studio Art Tours, plus galleries in Colorado and Hawaii. [www.KarineSwenson.com](http://www.KarineSwenson.com)



*Mojave Boulders*, Quilt, 22-1/2x59

## Gillyan Thorburn – Twentynine Palms, California

Gillyan Thorburn was born in Jakarta, Indonesia, and has worked for many years with villagers in various parts of Indonesia developing markets for their hand-made textiles, crafts, and art objects, and developing markets for their goods in America. She also has worked with OXFAM International and a non-profit organization in Eastern Indonesia to develop marketing for the local traditional weaving and to develop quality controls for their modern interpretations of their traditional artworks. In the last few years she has been developing her own artistic vision and abilities, inspired and informed by years of experience with the work of others. Her multicultural experiences and her colorful and energetic artistic vision infuse her quilts, appliqué work, handmade greeting cards, jewelry, and photography with boundless energy, humor, and surprising inventions. Since 2010 she has focused on designing and creating Art Quilts, developing her own quilting style. She finds the colors, textures, and light of the Mojave Desert and Joshua Tree National Park to be a great inspiration.



*Desert Aglow*, Acrylic, 30x30

## Alita VanVliet – Joshua Tree, California

Award-winning California artist Alita VanVliet has lifelong ties to art. As the daughter of an architect and artist, she was surrounded by materials to create. Her studies in art are varied, both self-taught and formal, with two design degrees, one in fashion and one in landscape design. She worked for 30 years as a landscape designer in the San Francisco Bay Area before moving to Joshua Tree in 2012. Having shown her artwork in galleries, juried shows, and open studio events in northern California, she came to the high desert for new inspiration and a simpler life in which she could focus on her art full time. Known for her expressive use of color and attention to line and form, VanVliet's current works are a true expression of her love of nature. She is noted for expressive acrylic paintings and mixed media combining illustration and paint. "I'm living my dream here in Joshua Tree, soaking in its peaceful quiet, amazed at the diversity of nature here. I spend a great deal of time exploring nearby Joshua Tree National Park and find the high desert and its stunning sunsets, abundant wildlife, textured skylines and otherworldly rock formations so inspiring and conducive to my artwork." [www.AlitaVanVlietArt.com](http://www.AlitaVanVlietArt.com)



*Early Morning Mist*, Crystalline Glaze Porcelain Pottery, 7x13-1/2

## Nichole Vikdal – Yucca Valley, California

Nichole Vikdal has loved pottery all her life. From playing in the mud as a kid to her first thrown pot in college, she was hooked. She makes all her pottery on a wheel using porcelain clay and mixes her own crystalline glazes from raw materials. She has created several color recipes and is constantly testing and searching for more. In the pottery world, the "success rate" is much lower for this glaze than others, often resulting in poor color, no crystals, or breaking under the intense heat. Due to the lengthy time required to master the glaze, the great care that must be taken in mixing and firing, and the small success rate, Vikdal is one of the few potters today who use this glaze. She has won awards for her work, including a first place at 29 Palms Art Gallery in 2013 and an Honorable Mention at the 49th annual art show for Associated Artists Inland Empire. She was juried into the Joshua Tree National Park Art Show 2013, has shown in many galleries, and is currently represented at The Blue Door Museum Store at Riverside Art Museum in Riverside, CA. Vikdal is a member of Associated Artists Inland Empire, Chaparral Artists, Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council, and Twentynine Palms Artists' Guild. Yucca Valley has been her desert home for the past 20 years.

# Juried Artists 2014



*After Rain Blooming*, Oil, 16x20

## Martha Villegas – Cathedral City, California

Martha Villegas was born in Mexicali, Baja California Mexico. She studied art in Casa De La Cultura in Mexicali, and continued her art studies in Universidad de Baja California, Imperial Valley College, and San Diego State University. “Having grown up in Mexico, my strongest visual impressions have been the bright colors of the fruit in the market, the movement and laughter of children playing on the streets, and my town inundated with summer light. In much of my work, I represent the bright colors of my childhood memories. I also enjoy applying all kinds of textures to my paintings and drawings. The use of vibrant, saturated-color on my paintings is a representation of what I consider life in its full expression. Each aspect of my work is intense, full of texture and movement.” Villegas lives in Cathedral City, where she paints and teaches art lessons. Her work has been exhibited in California at Latino Art Museum, Pomona; Arts Center, Riverside; Coachella Valley Arts Center, Indio; Incredible Artist, Palm Springs; Art Teach, Palm Desert; and various exhibitions in Mexico.



*Hemingway*, Oil, 8x10

## Krista Wargo – Yucca Valley, California

Krista Wargo was born and raised in Madison, Wisconsin. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Madison with a degree in Fine Arts. Upon graduation, she moved to Southern California, became a teacher and earned an MA in Education. She currently teaches high school art. Initially, her paintings came from her imagination. Gradually, she became more and more interested in painting from observation. The desert landscape began to increasingly draw her attention. Living so close to Joshua Tree National Park afforded her the opportunity to get out into nature and paint “en plein air” (outside). “The landscape of our American Southwest is a constant source of fascination for me. I am intrigued by the way the light plays on the surfaces of the desert; the mountains, rocks, plants, trees, land, and clouds. The light creates shadows that interweave among the light producing beautiful abstract shapes. When I paint, I focus on these abstract shapes, and when they all go together, they produce an image of our desert. I paint both “en plein air” and in my studio. I prefer to paint plein air because I enjoy the challenge of getting information down quickly, being in the elements, and being a part of what I am interpreting.” [fineartamerica.com/profiles/krista-wargo.html](http://fineartamerica.com/profiles/krista-wargo.html)



*Long Suffering*, Mixed Media, 7x10x13

## Kristin Winters – La Quinta, California

Kristin Winters is a painter, printmaker, and sculptor, and a native of La Quinta, California. She earned her BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute in Painting and Printmaking. She uses a variety of materials, ranging from acrylic, watercolor, found objects, and spray paint to create her pieces. Winters is inspired by her desert home—the Coachella Valley mountains, Joshua trees, canyons, and dark starry nights make appearances in her paintings. She recreates her world through geometric and psychedelic images; conjoining human and desert mysticism, she attempts to understand and interpret her surroundings. Through her work, Winters struggles with and explores the question: “Who am I, and what the hell is this place?”



## Judy Wold – Santa Monica, California

Artist Judy Wold graduated from San Francisco State College with a BA degree while concurrently attending San Francisco Art Institute (California School of Fine Arts). She traveled and painted in Europe and the Middle East for a year before moving to New York City, where she attended Hunter College and received a New York teaching credential. She has held various teaching positions in New York and Los Angeles. Returning to a career in painting, she attended studio with Martin Lubner, became a member of Gallery 825 in Los Angeles, 2000-2007, and joined Joshua Tree Art Gallery (JTAG) in 2011. Her exhibitions include LACMA, Long Beach Arts, Palos Verdes Art Center, Mt. St. Mary's College, Studio Solo Exhibitions, Patricia Correia Gallery Annual Juried Exhibition, Palm Springs Art Museum 35th Annual National Juried Art Exhibition, Gallery 825 Annual Juried Exhibition, Venice Art Walk, Art LA: International Contemporary Art Fair, Mendocino Art Center, JTAG, and the annual Hwy 62 Open Studio Art Tours. [www.judywold.com](http://www.judywold.com)

*(Guston) Crackin' Up*, Oil on Canvas, 48x48

# Juried Artists 2014



*Yucca Crown, Water Soluble Oil on Paper, 39x14*

New York City; Icons of the West Juried Exhibition, Montana; St. Augustine 5th Annual Nature & Wildlife Exhibition, Florida; Chico Art Center National Juried Exhibition, California; Minot State University National Juried Exhibition, North Dakota; Blanche Ames National Juried Exhibition, Massachusetts; and Alexandria Museum of Art National Juried Exhibition, Louisiana. “My physical and unscripted works have an abstract quality that’s void of details and extraneous colors. What’s left on the paper is the essence of the artist’s thoughts. Their aesthetic appeal is timeless. That’s how I approach my monochromes. Not as direct renditions of my selected subject matter but as abstract expressions of the natural world that leave room for interpretation.” [www.zarney.com](http://www.zarney.com)

## Kim Zarney – Cleveland, Ohio

Born in Medina, Ohio, Kim Zarney attended Syracuse University and earned his BFA in Painting and Printmaking from Cleveland Institute of Art. He has worked as an illustrator, graphic designer, and advertising agency creative director. Recently renewing his fine arts career, Zarney is building a body of work with a specific focus on contemporary landscapes and impressions of the natural world. His work is included in public and private collections, and recent exhibitions include Society of Illustrators 56th Annual Exhibition,

## The Jurors 2014

### Mike Buchheit Grand Canyon National Park

Mike Buchheit is a landscape and wildlife photographer, veteran travel writer, and outdoor educator. His images have been



featured in fine art galleries, including Tilt in Scottsdale, Arizona, where he is currently represented. Mike’s images have been widely published in books, periodicals, advertisements, gift products, as well as National Park Service exhibits and displays. A number of his images are included in *Lasting Light: 125 Years of Grand Canyon Photography* (Northland Press, 2008), and its companion art exhibit has been traveling the country as part of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Series. Buchheit has been the director of the Grand Canyon Field Institute in Grand Canyon National Park since 1997.

### Katherine Hough Palm Springs Art Museum

Katherine Plake Hough began her museum career in 1975 as Registrar at the Palm Springs Desert Museum. In 1979 she became the Curator of Art, and since 2002 serves as Chief Curator. During her 38-year career at the Palm Springs Art Museum, Hough has expanded the museum’s permanent collection of art and exhibition program. She has

authored over 30 exhibition catalogs and organized 45+ special exhibitions, including 14 that traveled the U.S. She has been a guest juror for exhibitions, presented lectures, and participated in symposia across the country. Hough was founding Chairman of the Public Arts Commission for the City of Palm Springs 1988-1990, and since 1995 has served on the Art in Public Places Commission for the City of Palm Desert. Born in Colorado, Hough earned her BA in Architecture Interiors from California State University, Long Beach, and her MA in Museum Studies and Exhibition Design from CSU, Fullerton.



### Julie Lazar ICANetwork.org Founding Curator, MOCA LA

Julie Lazar served as a founding Curator then as Director of Experimental Programs at The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles from 1981-2000. She led development programs in New York at The Museum of Modern Art, PS 1 Center for Contemporary Art (now MoMA PS 1), and The Hudson on the staff of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. She is now an independent curator and directs ICANetwork.org, an arts consultancy firm based in San Francisco. “Since moving to California from New York in 1981, I have spent some part of every year camping, climbing, hiking and exploring in Joshua Tree National Park, drawn primarily by its unique collection of boulders and rock faces, open skies, unique plant and animal life, exquisite weather and patterns of light. My spirit is always renewed by the visceral relationship I’ve enjoyed with the natural environment there and by the inspiring independent, creative residents who I have become friendly with over the years.”

## Art Selection Committee 2014



*Selection Committee on Sept. 22, 2014. Standing, L-R: Facilitator John Cole, art advisor Rhonda Lane Coleman, selection committee members Andy Woods, Mita Barter, Ann Congdon, Caryn Davidson. Seated, L-R: Art submissions tech Vickie Waite, selection committee members Jimbo Gimson, Art Mortimer.*

# Park History

## History of Joshua Tree National Park

By Paul F. Smith

Visitors to Joshua Tree National Park enjoy its wilderness qualities of solitude, quiet, vast open viewsheds, and abundant wildlife. They love to wander its landscape of immense twisted rock formations and unusual cacti and Joshua trees. Tourists from throughout the world enjoy its miles of hiking trails, sightseeing, rock climbing, and star gazing.

How did this sense of place evolve only two hours from the intense urban areas of Southern California? The answer lies in its history, a rich and vibrant story of:

- Geologic evolution over millions of years
- Early Pinto culture in a wetter climate
- More recent Native American presence
- An invasion of miners, cowboys, and settlers
- Powerful visionaries protecting this special place

And a special place it is, located on the southern edge of the Mojave Desert, which was designated by *National Geographic* as one of the world's 100 most beautiful places. Joshua Tree National Park was featured as its iconic image of the Mojave.

Economic history is an important part of the story. Thousands of men and women have roamed the area prospecting for gold, silver, and other valuable ores. A few of them were successful. Cattlemen made modest profits grazing small herds over expansive ranges. And homesteaders bought cheap land from the government to reside or vacation here.

But, the big economic story has been tourism, with visitors from all over the world drawn to Joshua Tree for its unobstructed vistas and its magical combination of geology, wildlife, and cultural inspiration. These tourists contribute over \$70 million to the economies of the Joshua Tree Gateway Communities.

### THE GUIDING HANDS OF GEOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY

People live where their lifestyle can be comfortable and enjoyable. This is dictated by forces of geology and geography. Within the last 280 million years, sliding tectonic plates on each side of the San Andreas Fault uplifted mountain ranges. Ice ages came and went. Great valleys were created and the climate of the region changed. About 10,000 years ago, as the last of the ice ages ended, the desert climate grew arid and warmer. Vast fertile grasslands disappeared, but the Joshua trees remained, and we approached the climate we know today. These forces of nature created the park's unusual assembly of Joshua trees, cactus gardens, and impressive mountains and monolithic rock formations.

### THE FIRST PREHISTORIC PEOPLE: WHO WERE THEY?

Answers were provided by Bill and Elizabeth Campbell. In 1924 the Campbells came to Twentynine Palms so that Bill could recover from lung damage he suffered as a soldier in World War I. Although the Campbells were amateurs, they decided to explore the archaeological resources of the desert, in cooperation with the Southwest Museum.



*Chemehuevi basket makers in 1897 at the west end of the Oasis of Mara at Twentynine Palms, north of what is now Joshua Tree National Park.*

The Campbells discovered numerous Indian rock shelters in what became Joshua Tree National Monument. Artifacts in these caves belonged to Serrano, Chemehuevi, Mojave, and Cahuilla Indians as well as those who came before them. The Campbells found spirit sticks, ancient camp sites, ollas, bowls, basketry, textiles, metates, manos, mortars, arrow straighteners, chipped tools, projectile points, ornaments and beads from the coast.

But the most important thing they found was evidence of the presence of early man in the Pinto Basin of Joshua Tree National Park.

The Southwest Museum announced the Pinto Basin discovery in its 1935 publication of "The Pinto Basin Site, An Ancient Aboriginal Camping Ground in the California Desert" written by Elizabeth and Bill Campbell. The site consisted of a dry marshland with clearly delineated camping sites along the shore dating back 7,000 to 12,000 years ago. The Pinto Basin is located in the wilderness areas of the southeast portion of the park. Much remains to be learned about the identity and culture of these prehistoric peoples.

### MORE RECENT INDIAN PRESENCE

In recent years we have the recorded presence of Serrano, Chemehuevi, Mojave, and Cahuilla Indians. The Chemehuevi were southern Paiutes whose range included much of the southern Mojave Desert and extended into Nevada and Arizona. The Serrano were a mountain tribe whose territory extended from Joshua Tree National Park to Tejon Pass, northwest of Los Angeles. The Cahuilla Indians had a significant presence in the south side of the park and their homelands were centered in the Coachella Valley and farther south. All these tribes were of the Shoshonean linguistic family.

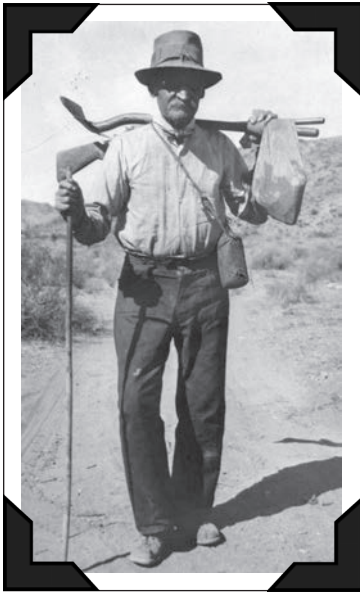
Bill McHaney moved from Big Bear to the 29 Palms Oasis (Oasis of Mara) in 1879. Bill was searching for a better life than cattle rustling with his brother Jim. When he arrived he found that Serrano Indians were the dominant Native American family, but a small group of Chemehuevi also were there. The Chemehuevi had journeyed to the oasis in about 1867 after losing a war with the Mojave Indians at the Colorado River. McHaney reported that there were about 40 Indians who made their home here.

# Park History

McHaney became a close friend of the Native Americans. They knew where the water holes could be found and helped him locate valuable gold locations in the park. Due to conflicts with the invading Anglo American culture, most of the Indians were gone from the area of Joshua Tree National Park by 1909.

## EARLY RANCHERS, PROSPECTORS AND MINERS

Many ranchers and prospectors like Bill McHaney and Bill Keys were in the area of the park by the early 1900s. Hundreds of mining claims were located in the Old Dale and Gold Park districts. A few were profitable, but most of the claims were marginal and survived on the dreams of quick riches by their owners.



*Cattleman and gold prospector Bill McHaney arrived in 1897 and lived at the Oasis of Mara. He later lived in Music Valley and at the Desert Queen Ranch in what is now Joshua Tree National Park until his death in 1937.*

Small scale cattle ranching was successful. The Talmadge brothers from Big Bear and the Barker & Shay outfit from Whitewater were bringing their cattle up into the high country of the park for better winter pastures.

Mining and ranching in the park ended in the 1940s, although ambitious gold mining interests have never stopped trying. Bill Keys' historic Desert Queen Ranch is now protected by Joshua Tree National Park and is open for supervised visits by the public. Remnants of the homesteading movement are scattered throughout the park.

## THE NEED FOR PROTECTION MINERVA HOYT AND FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT

Minerva Hamilton Hoyt was a wealthy widow from Pasadena, CA, with an intense interest and knowledge of the biology and geology of the desert. She initiated a passionate campaign aimed at President Franklin D. Roosevelt to set aside the park as a federally protected park.

In the 1920s Minerva Hoyt became dismayed and angered at the plundering of desert Joshua trees and cacti for the backyard gardens and businesses of the southwest. She went right to work and by 1929 had this to say:

“Over 30 years ago, I spent my first night in the Mojave Desert of California and was entranced by the magnificence of the Joshua grove in which we were camping and which was thickly sown with desert juniper and many rare forms of desert plant life.

A month ago, when we were forming the Desert Conservation League, I visited the spot again. As a conservation officer interested in prospective desert parks, imagine the surprise and shock of finding a barren acreage with scarcely a Joshua left standing and the whole face of the landscape a desolate waste, denuded of its growth for commercialization.

“This highway likewise, I found, makes easy of access the road for the commercial collector, one of the great despoilers of the desert, taking from this arid region, as he does, truckloads of rare plant life to satisfy commercial greed. And arid growth is slow growth, hence the irreparable loss which only immediate conservation can check.”

Hoyt began a serious international campaign to save the unique and beautiful habitat of the desert. She organized an intense lobbying effort aimed at President Roosevelt. Many objections were raised, particularly by mining interests. But she prevailed. On August 10, 1936, President Roosevelt issued a Presidential Proclamation creating Joshua Tree National Monument.

## THE MINING INTERESTS TAKE SOME BACK

Beginning in 1945, the Western Mining Council argued that the eastern and northern portions of the monument contained valuable minerals. Their efforts paid off, and in 1950 Congress passed the Phillips Bill, which President Truman signed into law. It deleted 289,000 acres from Joshua Tree National Monument and returned that land to the public domain open for mineral exploitation.

But there was a small consolation prize that year when the monument acquired a small but important parcel at the Oasis of Mara in Twentynine Palms. The Twentynine Palms Corporation, owner of the 29 Palms Inn, donated 58 acres at the east portion of the oasis to the monument. This property became the official headquarters of the monument and also served as its first visitor center for the public.

## THE MONUMENT BECOMES A NATIONAL PARK

For the next 44 years Joshua Tree National Monument became a great battleground of competing interests for wilderness protection. The complicated range of competitors included conservationists, mining companies, ranchers, off-road vehicle enthusiasts, commercial and industrial developers, and others who abhorred federal intervention in their free use of these lands.

Senator Alan Cranston of California introduced a Desert Protection Act in 1986 to turn the monument into a protected national park. Getting the bill signed into law would be a long and bitter struggle. Cranston retired from the U.S. Senate in 1992. Newly elected Senator Dianne Feinstein took over sponsorship of the California Desert Protection Act. Amendments bounced back and forth in Congress before it finally passed in 1994. All that was left was for President Bill Clinton to sign the bill. He did so on October 31, 1994, and Joshua Tree National Monument became Joshua Tree National Park.

The story is not over. Senator Feinstein is continuing to introduce legislation to update the California Desert Protection Act with a California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act, bringing additions to the park and new national monuments. These changes, which would add protection to wildlife habitat and viewsheds of the park and its regional biodiversity, are now faced with added challenges from climate change and huge experimental solar and wind utilities. #

# The Art of Wilderness

## Why are all these artists living and working in the Mojave Desert?

By Paul F. Smith

Hundreds of talented artists from all walks of the art world have chosen to come here. They did not come to sell their art. They came to experience the wild country of the desert in order to inspire the creation of their art.

*National Geographic* has pointed to our Mojave Desert as one of “The World’s 100 Most Beautiful Places.” Several farsighted federal laws are responsible for that designation, The Wilderness Act and the California Desert Protection Act.



### THE WILDERNESS ACT 1964

Fifty years ago, a bipartisan Congress passed the Wilderness Act of 1964. Manifest Destiny was long over. The American people had crossed and conquered the continent and would now look back and into our country to protect important wild landscapes for future generations to experience.

It is in essence a spiritual quest. Our cities are fine for buying and selling. However, it is in our wild spaces that we experience those qualities of life and landscape which refresh our souls and renew our love of life.

When President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law on September 3, 1964, he declared its primary purpose as: *“If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them more than the miracles of technology. We must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it.”*

The initial scope of the Wilderness Act was the creation of 54 protected areas with 9.1 million acres of wilderness. Since then, over 109 million acres have been set aside as wilderness, many of them in the California Desert Protection Act.

The primary criteria for these wilderness landscapes is that they be “untrammeled” by man. Motorized vehicles are not welcome and human impacts are minimal.



Artist and photographer Stephen H. Willard (1894–1966) documented what is now Joshua Tree National Park in the 1930s and 1940s. Some of his photographs were instrumental in establishing Joshua Tree National Monument in 1936. For many in Congress in Washington, D.C., it was the first time they had ever seen this part of the west.

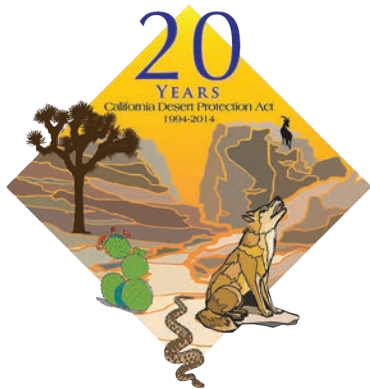


Joshua tree photo by Stephen Willard.

The first sentence of the Wilderness Act declares its public policy purpose: *“In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness.”*

# The Art of Wilderness

The artists living and working in the desert have captured their own visions of its magical importance. Artist Mary-Austin Klein said it well: *“In order to promote preservation of California’s fragile desert regions, I paint landscapes with detailed realism documenting the mountain ranges and the magical light conditions of the Mojave Desert.”* And from photographer Sam Roberts we hear: *“Photography has always played a key role in bringing awareness to the public of our need to protect wild places.”*



## CALIFORNIA DESERT PROTECTION ACT 1994

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the California Desert Protection Act (CDPA), championed by Senator Dianne Feinstein and signed into law by President Bill Clinton on October 31, 1994. It was far reaching in its important role of protecting desert wild lands. The CDPA:

- Designated 69 new Wilderness Areas with a total of 3,571,520 acres of Bureau of Land Management wilderness and 95,500 acres of National Forest wilderness.
- Enlarged and re-designated Joshua Tree from a national monument to a national park, with a total of 795,000 acres, nearly three quarters of which is now wilderness.
- Enlarged and re-designated Death Valley from a national monument to a national park, with a total of 3,367,627 acres, nearly 95% of which is wilderness.
- Established the Mojave National Preserve, which now spans a total of 1.6 million acres, approximately one half of which is wilderness.
- Designated the Desert Lily Sanctuary as a preserve.

The significance of the CDPA is huge. It came at a time when the desert was being ravaged by immense open pit mines, commercial development, and off-road vehicle abuse.

Not long ago the desert was thought to be barren and hostile—a land to be avoided by civilized man. But after World War II, a growing population began to see the region as filled with economic opportunities such as tourism, ranching, mining, and commercial development. That growth continues to this day with a new industry of solar and wind energy over an area that could exceed 2 million acres.

People discovered magnificent scenery with wide open vistas up to 100 miles, along with towering sand dunes, rugged craggy mountains, animals large and small, and an immense bounty of



Actor James Cagney sketches desert landscape painter John Hilton at his easel, circa 1960s. Cagney had a desert retreat in Twentynine Palms. Hilton was a resident artist in the 1950s and 1960s and was co-founder and first president of the Twentynine Palms Artists' Guild in 1951-52.

plants, cacti, wildflowers, and the iconic Joshua tree. Hundreds of these species conserve moisture and beat the heat in fascinating ways which are still the subject of serious scientific scrutiny.

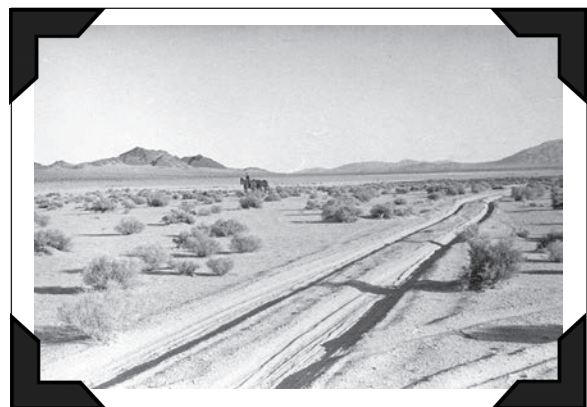
A balanced protection of the natural resources was needed, and the California Desert Protection Act provided a big answer.

## THE SPIRITUAL IMPORTANCE OF WILDERNESS

A few years back, President Gerald Ford commented: *“I believe that the Wilderness System serves a basic need for all Americans, even those who may never visit wilderness areas—the preservation of a vital element of our heritage. Wilderness preservation insures that a central facet of our Nation can be realized, not just remembered.”*

*“It is tempting to believe that what the desert holds uppermost for man is not a raceway for his engines but a crucible for his spirit.”*  
—John Waugh.

That is why artists have chosen to come here. They did not come to sell their art. They came to experience the wild spirit of the desert.



The desert highway in 1933. Photo by Bill Hatch.

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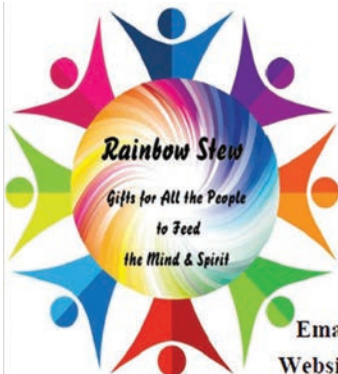
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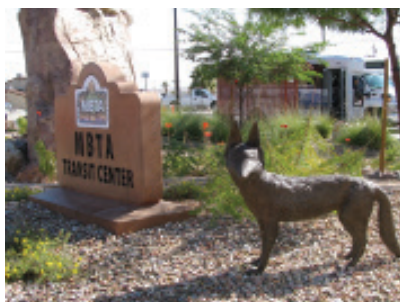


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