



AWARD JUDGES for JTNP Art Expo Juried Exhibition 2024

[1] **Linda Shrader** – Artist, muralist, sculptor, photographer, arts advocate, and arts educator Linda Shrader is a two-time award winner in previous JTNP Art Expo juried exhibitions for her 3-D “Joshua Tree Forever” sculptures, which also have been awarded featured-artist placement at the California Welcome Center in Yucca Valley. Over the years, she has received awards for her fine art as well as her murals. In 2007 she established a mural business, Larger Than Life Murals, with her artist daughter, Echo Westover, and has painted nearly 100 murals in California. In 2015, they were awarded a contract to paint a 16’ x 20’ mural, titled “Welcome Home Warriors,” honoring veterans of the Vietnam war, commissioned by the Manteco Mural Society, Manteca, CA. Shrader is an advocate for public art and art in the schools and has taught classes to all ages. She was a founding board member of the Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council, helped to create the original Hwy 62 Open Studio Art Tours, and currently serves on the board of Hi-Desert Artists (HDA). <https://lindashrader.com/>

[2] **Mark Spangenberg** – Fine artist Mark Spangenberg was born and raised in Twentynine Palms. He was influenced in his early years by family forays to the L.A. County Museum of Art and later by European museums where he gleaned the beauty of art. Known as a contemporary realist, he received formal education at the Art Center College of Design in 1985 with a BA in Illustration. In 1980, he studied and practiced the medium of true fresco in Salzburg, Austria, under the guidance of Robert Scherer of Bolzano, Italy, and later assisted fresco painters Benjamin Long IV and Charles Kapsner in North Carolina. He spent nearly 30 years in the commercial art trade, from editorial illustration to billboard painting and murals, while continuing his fine art and teaching figure drawing, portrait drawing, beginning and advanced painting, and plein-air art. Returning to his desert hometown in 2014, he has continued exhibiting and teaching art. He has served on the board of Twentynine Palms Artists’ Guild and is currently on the board of Joshua Tree National Park Council for the Arts. <https://www.markspangenbergfineart.com/>

[3] **Jennifer Ruggiero** – Born and raised in New York City, with a lifelong passion for music and art, fine art photographer Jennifer Ruggiero’s pursuit of a music career brought her from the jazz clubs of New York City to the entertainment industry in Los Angeles. After a career as an Interactive Producer and Designer/Director on projects for HBO, Comedy Central, Mattel, Warner Brothers, and Chuck Jones Interactive, she switched to a career in education, designing and teaching classes in Digital Imaging and New Media Production. Her work has been exhibited widely, including Barba Gallery and Desert Art Center Gallery in Palm Springs, DNJ Gallery and Duncan Miller Gallery in Bergamot Station Arts Center in Santa Monica, Cause Gallery in LA, and several galleries in the Joshua Tree Gateway Communities. Ruggiero received a degree in music from Leonard Davis Center for Performing Arts in NYC and Psychology from Antioch University, Los Angeles. Her photographs have won awards and have been published in *The Huffington Post*, *Spin*, *Clamor Magazine*, *Playboy*, and *Utne Reader*. <https://jenniferruggiero.zenfolio.com>