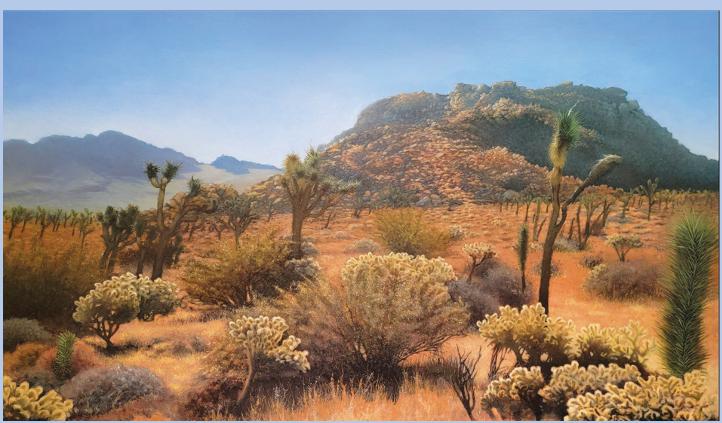
12th annual joshua tree national park ARTEXPO



Travis Usher 2023

NOVEMBER 2024

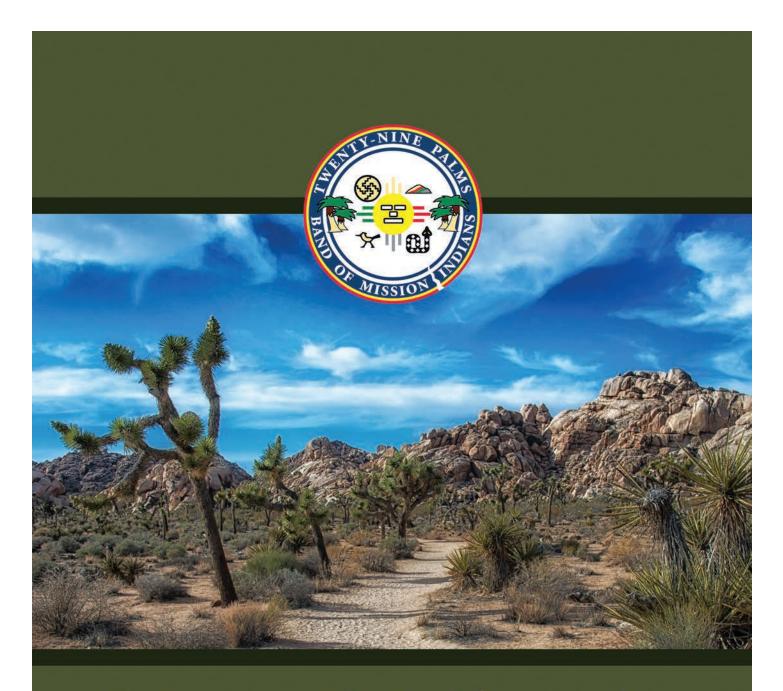
JURIED EXHIBITION, Nov. 1–30 ART EXPO WEEKEND, Nov. 2 & 3 29 PALMS ART GALLERY AT THE OASIS OF MARA 29 PALMS, CALIFORNIA



www.jtnpARTS.org







The Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians is honored to be a Diamond Sponsor of the Joshua Tree National Park Art Exposition.

www.29palmstribe.org

J joshua tree national park JA TREE NATIONAL



JURIED EXHIBITION CATALOG

oshua Tree National Park Art Expo features an annual J juried exhibition and celebration of art, culture, and park history at the Oasis of Mara in Twentynine Palms, California, a short distance from the NPS Headquarters.

Founded in 2013, the event was designed to connect the park with the desert's burgeoning arts community, to provide an opportunity for highlighting the art and artists inspired by the park, and to create a quality art event for artists, art lovers, visitors, and locals. The exhibition features artists of all levels, from student and amateur artists to professionals and nationally recognized artists.

This year, the 12th annual juried exhibition received 280 pieces of art submitted by 122 artists from the desert region and across California and the U.S. After the jurying process, 60 artists and artworks were selected

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS 501(c)(3) | BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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This event is supported in part by a Community Event Grant from the City of Twentynine Palms.

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CATALOG CREDITS

Catalog Design/Layout: Vickie Waite, JTNP Council for the Arts Printing: Valley Independent Printing, Yucca Valley, CA Front Cover Artwork: Cholla Collection by Travis Usher, Oil, 30x48, winner of JTNP Art Expo 2023 Best of Show.



for the juried exhibition, featuring "artwork depicting or inspired by the natural aspects of Joshua Tree National Park or its cultural history."

The juried exhibition is on display at the historic 29 Palms Art Gallery at the Oasis of Mara, November 1–30. The juried artwork also is featured in this exhibition catalog and online at: jtnpARTS.org.

The Art Expo weekend celebration takes place at the gallery on November 2 & 3, with the exhibition inside the gallery, artist booths on the gallery grounds, live music, food and beverages, and an awards reception Nov. 2.

The Art Expo is presented by Joshua Tree National Park Council for the Arts in partnership with 29 Palms Artists' Guild, both 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations based in Twentynine Palms, CA. #

JTNP ART EXPO WEEKEND Nov. 2 & 3, 2024 | 29 Palms Art Gallery

74055 Cottonwood Dr. @ National Park Dr., 29 Palms, CA Saturday, Nov. 2 — 10 am to 7 pm 10 am-4 pm, Artist Booths on the Gallery grounds

10 am-7 pm, Exhibition in the Gallery

10 am -12 pm, Music: Lizard of Ahhz on the Patio Stage 11 am-7 pm, Food by Rocky's Pizza 29 Palms 11 am-7 pm, Cash Bar, Wine/Beer & Beverages 12-3 pm, Music: Bob Garcia on the Patio Stage

4-7 pm, Music: Maui Mike & Wendy on Patio Stage

4–7 pm, Awards Reception (Awards at 5 pm) Sunday, Nov. 3 — 10 am to 4 pm

10 am-4 pm, Artist Booths on the Gallery grounds 10 am-4 pm, Exhibition in the Gallery 11 am–1 pm, Music: Hunter & The Wick'd on Patio Stage

11-4 pm, Food by Rocky's Pizza 29 Palms 11 am-4 pm, Cash Bar, Wine/Beer & Beverages 1:30-4 pm, Music: Mark Ross & Brent Lewis on Patio Stage

JURIED EXHIBITION Nov. 1-30, 2024 | 29 Palms Art Gallery

74055 Cottonwood Dr. @ National Park Dr., 29 Palms, CA (Gallery open Friday–Saturday–Sunday 11–3)

Joshua Tree National Park Council for the Arts P.O. Box 1755, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277 Email: artoffice@jtnparts.org

https://jtnpARTS.org https://29palmsartgallery.com



Richie Abo | Apple Valley, California Yucca – Oil on Panel 12x12

Richie Abo was born in Van Nuys, CA, and moved to the California desert at a young age. Growing up in the desert and surrounded by their grandmother's art, they developed an appreciation for art and nature. Abo works primarily in oil paint to portray the beauty of their hometown and surrounding natural areas. Abo's studio pieces are informed by plein air paintings created on site and photographs taken while exploring the desert environment. They portray the desert as seen through the lens of someone who finds love, comfort, and peace there. "I believe that although the desert may be a wasteland to some people who are unaccustomed to its beauty; those who call it home recognize the desert's abundance and charm." Richie Abo enjoys hiking, climbing, birding, and camping, and graduated from California State University, Fullerton in 2022 with a BFA in Drawing and Painting.



Julie Alvarado | Joshua Tree, California Night Camping in Joshua Tree National Park – Acrylic 9x12

Artist Julie Alvarado was born in Southern California and grew up going to Disneyland and watching the Rose Parade on TV. She was also a big fan of the early 1960s Hollywood science-fiction horror films where giant spiders, ants, and other enormous creatures appeared and scared the wits out of everyone. "In 2005, I was an artist in residence in Joshua Tree National Park, and it was a life-changing experience for me. The rock formations in the park were like nothing I had ever experienced before. I fell in love with the park." Now her acrylic paintings are colorful narratives of the animals, people, and landscapes that she envisions taking place in the park. Alvarado received an MFA from California College of the Arts in Oakland, and her work has been shown in exhibitions across California, including a 2023 solo show at 29 Palms Art Gallery. https://juliealvaradoartist.com



Deborah Ammar | Yucca Valley, California 3D – Cross of the Desert – Assemblage, Manikin 69x19x13

Deborah Ammar is a self-taught assemblage artist and ceramicist. "Found objects, the unique and antiques have 'collected me' for many years. Having always had an interest in fine art, architecture, books, fashion, and gardens, my eyes rarely rested. I dabbled in many mediums, never staying longer than a couple years with any one craft." In 2010, Ammar began creating assemblages that utilized found objects and antiques. "The items seem to take on a life of their own during the creation process and almost seem to make themselves. I've found that the compulsion to collect drives the urge to create. I feel that I am sharing a glimpse of life which in turn stirs the imagination of the viewer, encouraging them to delve into their own memories and emotions." Ammar has crafted at the Port of Los Angeles retail facility and exhibited in juried shows from Redondo Beach to Joshua Tree.



Robert Arnett | Glendora, California Down the Desert Trail – Oil on Canvas 16x20

Plein-air artist Robert Arnett's fascination with art developed early, when he won 2nd place in a monster drawing contest on The Doodles Weaver Show in the 1950s at the age of 10. Receiving an oil painting kit that Christmas sealed the deal. His first job with a silk screen printing firm led to a 35-year career in design, print making, and competitive creativity. More than two decades ago he found his niche in landscape painting and has since become an iconic Wonder Valley artist, opening his desert cabin studio each October for the Hwy 62 Art Tours. A native Californian, Arnett studied at Otis Art Institute and Scottsdale Artist School. He is an Associate Member of California Art Club and Southern California Plein Air Painters (socalpapa), and an exhibiting member of 29 Palms Artists' Guild and Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council. https://www.robertarnettfineart.com/

Brandin Barón | San Francisco, California Sunset, Key's View – Acrylic, Gouache, Graphite, Enamel 16x19

Brandin Barón is a San Francisco-based visual artist. After receiving his MFA in Design from the University of California, San Diego, in 1996, he has worked professionally as a fine and digital artist, graphic designer, costume designer for theatrical productions, and design scholar. From 2006-2018, he was a Professor of Design at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Recent group exhibitions include: Attleboro Arts Museum, Alexandria Museum of Art, Batesville Area Arts Council, Baton Rouge Center for Contemporary Art, Buckham Gallery, Coos Art Museum, The De Young Museum, First Street Gallery (NYC), Gallery 110 (Seattle), The Henry Ford, Hudson Valley Museum of Contemporary Art, Norman Rockwell Museum, Orange County Center for Contemporary Art, Springfield Art Museum, Susquehanna Art Museum, TAG Gallery (Los Angeles), Touchstone Gallery (Washington, D.C), Yellowstone Art Museum, and others. https://www.brandinbaron.com/



Joey Bebar | Yucca Valley, California 3D – Mining for Gold, Mojave Desert – Assemblage 32x21

Joey Bebar is a fine artist and stone mason, as well as an entrepreneur. From an idea born in 1995, since 2000 his "Cross-ing the World" enterprise has created spiritual gifts and crosses in natural stone that have been sold from Southern California to the Washington National Cathedral in Washington D.C., The Alamo in San Antonio, TX, and various missions and churches. His stone crosses have even headed across the world in care packages to Marines in Iraq and Afghanistan. A master artisan in creative stone cutting, utilizing "old school" methods and tools to make inventive and unique works of art, each piece is individually handcrafted, highlighting the beauty of the stone. Bebar is also co-owner of Artistic Expressions by J&L. Bebar's assemblage, "Mining for Gold, Mojave Desert," is recycled from nature, wood, metal, rock, cement, tree branches, foliage, etc. https://cross-ingtheworld.com/

Ilona Benzak Hardy | Plantation, Florida The Tree – Oil on Canvas 18x14

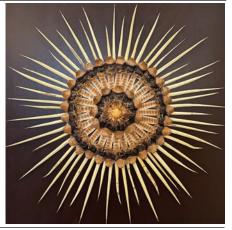
Born in Miami Beach, Ilona Benzak began her classical art study at age 12, with summer classes at South Florida Art Center. She attended Philadelphia College of Art and then went to New York City working in commercial design. In 1973, she moved to Rome, Italy, where she taught figure drawing at the Accademia di Belle Arte. During eight years abroad, she had a solo show in 1974 at the American Studies Center in Naples. After time abroad and family priorities accomplished, she is blessed to do what she loves most, teach art and continue to paint varied subjects with balanced creative consistency and extensive knowledge in the visual arts. She travels often to the Southwest and California, focusing on the profound beauty and heritage of the area, bringing it back to her studio in Florida, where she continues her work today. Benzak is an exhibiting member of Oil Painters of America. https://ilonabenzakart.com/

Julia Briest | Desert Hot Springs, California 3D – Brilliant Sunshine – Mixed Media, Natural Fibers 24x24x3

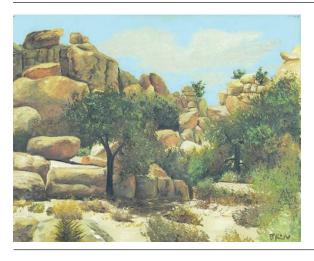
Julia Briest developed a love for the arts at a young age, having a mother as an art teacher and graduating with a BS degree in Fashion Merchandising from Western Michigan University. During a road trip in 2015 she became obsessed with collecting nature's finest "art supplies," thus creating Earth Art Creations. Inspired by the lands she travels, she is mindful of the impact on the environment while gathering and foraging natural art supplies. Her supplies are either handpicked on public lands or donated by friends and family. Her detailed natural fiber Mandalas and other works represent this bountiful earth and awaken us to see Mother Earth's natural creation through a new lens. Briest's works have received awards at juried shows like Joshua Tree National Park Art Expo and Environmental Education Collaborative 2023, and have been displayed at the Integratron, 29 Palms Art Gallery, and Borrego Art Institute. Instagram: @juliabriestart https://www.cwcmi.com/price-list







Joshua Tree National Park Art Expo – 5



Elaine Bron | Yucca Valley, California Cool in the Shade – Oil 8x10

Artist Elaine Bron says: "No bells, no whistles, no degrees, no awards, no pedigree, paper or blue blood. Just an old lady who loves the desert and paints the desert with the God-given talent, developed by labor, given to her; and I am pretty darn good at it. The sole desire of my heart is to produce art people will enjoy, take home, and be reminded of the good times they had in our desert." Bron's work has been exhibited extensively in the Joshua Tree National Park gateway communities over the years. Her works consistently sell at nearly every show and are now in many private collections.



Kevin Flynn Burke | Simi Valley, California Joshua Tree and Boulders – Photograph 16x20

Kevin Burke's 35-year career in still and motion photography has encompassed advertising, corporate and editorial assignments in the U.S. and across the globe. Now he is focused on fine art projects, including an extensive series on the Desert Southwest. "For more than two decades this region has been both preoccupation and passion. From my base near Los Angeles, I have taken every opportunity during that time for new explorations—sometimes a focused pursuit of one shot, other times serendipitous. The process has ebbed and flowed, depending on assignment schedules, weather, Park Service, tribal restrictions, and of course Covid!" What has emerged is a series of images titled Silence and Slow Time. https://silenceandslowtime.com



Rob Calhoun | Los Angeles, California Radiance – Infrared Film Photo 16x24

Los Angeles-based photographer Rob Calhoun is a musician and photographer who loves the spirit of the desert and good Southern BBQ. Originally from North Carolina, Calhoun is rooted in constant learning, practice, and the improvisation skills he's learned during his many years playing jazz guitar, producing live music, and being on stage. A lover of nature, he finds solace and peace in photographing the desert, beach, and mountains on both digital and film.

See more of his latest work @robcalhounmusic on Instagram.



Hannah Campbell | Yucca Valley, California A Flood of Stars – Inktense Pencils 18x24

Hannah Campbell is a traveler and grade-school teacher who has lived in the desert since childhood. Growing up in the Morongo Basin next to Joshua Tree National Park taught her to see the art of the desert in all its seasons. She has traveled all around the world as a schoolteacher and has been able to observe many different art styles, from Singapore to Tanzania. But the wild beauty of her home has always called her back and inspired her. The desert taught her how to see beauty in unusual places. Campbell weaves art into all the subjects she teaches, particularly math, since math is the language of both visual arts and math. She has participated and placed in the annual JTNP Art Expo juried exhibition and is a participant in the Hwy 62 Art Tours and member of Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council. Instagram: @hannahgraceartworks

Marsha Chan | La Canada-Flintridge, California JTNP and Pink Sunset Clouds – Photograph on Metal 20x24

Photographer Marsha Chan recently retired from a career in healthcare quality leadership and is a part-time lecturer at California State University, Northridge. Chan developed an early appreciation for the natural world through childhood trips to national parks across the west and Southwest U.S. As an adult, she continues to return to photograph these locations as well as new spots around the world. She enjoys capturing natural landscapes, the night sky, and cityscapes. With each photo, she strives to capture the awe and wonder she feels as she experiences beautiful and unique scenery. Joshua Tree National Park is one of her favorite photo locations with its grand vistas and dark skies. Chan has studied with professional photographers at Otis College of Art and Design, and her works have been featured on the app PhotoPills and shown in the JTNP Art Expo 2023 juried exhibition. https://www.marshachanphotography.com/

Enji Chung | Los Angeles, California Firefly Rocket Launch – Sony a1 Mirrorless Camera – 11x16

Enji Chung is a photographer residing on the unceded territory of Tongva/ Gabrieleno, whose family comes from the tiny island of Udo and the wetlands of Sunchun, Corea. Her Dad, also a photographer, gave her one of his cameras, but her love of imagery came from her auntie, an oil painter, who would take black and white portraits of her as a child. These seeds grew into a passion through her love of backpacking, climbing, and travel, especially in the stunning landscapes and nightscapes of Joshua Tree. She is grateful to visit this place which sits on the traditional homelands of the Maara'yam (Serrano), Nüwü (Chemehuevi), and Kawiya (Cahuilla). She is mainly self-taught along with learning through workshops and communities of photographers. Instagram: @enji_chung https://www.enjichung.com/

Janis Commentz | Yucca Valley, California Parry's Nolina, Super Spring – Acrylic 20x20

Janis Commentz is a third generation California artist who moved to the desert to teach high school English and Art. She is known for her color-intense palette and loose brush strokes of figures and landscapes. A four-decade resident of the Joshua Tree area, she teaches workshops in Joshua Tree National Park and local galleries. She has a BA from University of Redlands and MA in Education from California State University at San Bernardino. Since her retirement from teaching, she pursues painting full time, writing her blog, recording her podcast "Encouragement Only by Janis Commentz" and managing her online business. Commentz enjoys painting many terrains, including France. She exhibits her art in local shops and galleries and in 2020 opened her Etsy shop, French Press & Mojave Inspiration, featuring her original art and cards, calendars, and paper goods. https://www.janiscommentz.com/

Kacy Dalton | Joshua Tree, California 3D – Songs of the Desert – Mosaic, Guitar 40x15.5x4.5

Kacy Dalton is a versatile mosaic artist who lives and practices in Joshua Tree. She is a self-taught mosaicist who has found her home in the Morongo Basin amongst the many other talented artists of the area. Her mosaics are created by meticulously cutting and shaping every single little piece by hand. She pushes the boundaries of this ancient art form through her out-of-the-box approach and experimentation with new techniques. She incorporates recycled and found objects, natural plants, and other mixed-media alongside traditional glass and tile to create her works. Her inspiration is drawn from the stunning sunsets and fascinating flora and fauna of the desert and Joshua Tree National Park. Dalton's pieces are full of color and whimsy, reflecting the many layers and textures of the desert. Instagram: @MojaveMosaics











Reeyna Daniel | 29 Palms, California 3D – Cholla Moon 1 – Ceramic 11x13

Artist Reeyna Daniel has lived in Wonder Valley, CA, for the past 5 years. Her goal as a new artist has been to explore and express the concepts of rust, decomposition, and erosion in nature, especially in our desert environment. Most of her pieces are unglazed, pit-fired, or utilize a limited color palette to highlight the beauty and texture of raw clay and the somewhat unpredictable nature of the ceramic process. "Though most of my work is best described as rustic and organic, I often stray into crafting pieces that have a more contemporary feel. In my professional life I have spent over 15 years as an engineer in the construction industry, but my journey into ceramics started in 2022 with classes at a local studio in 29 Palms."



Dollar Davis | Los Angeles, California Mark and Mimi – Acrylic on Wood, 28x42

Dollar Davis is a pseudonym used by artist and photographer Brian Davis. It represents a collection of original paintings and prints in the style of Western Pop Art and Americana. The paintings are created digitally and then come to life with precise lasers that cut sheets of wood into individual sections. Each part is independently painted and then put together to produce the final piece. The name is a tribute to his ancestor Dollar Davis, a fellow woodworker who came west to America in 1634. Photographer Davis's visual journey has landed in a unique mythical western world as seen through the eyes of Dollar Davis. Inspired by the revolutionary musical scores written by Sergio Leone and his take on American Western films, Dollar Davis embodies a world where traditional iconic western themes and tropes take on a fresh graphic reinvention. https://www.dollardavis.com/



Doug Dolde | Paulden, Arizona Flower Walk – Photograph 14x11

Doug Dolde has been photographing the landscape of the American West since 2001. Dolde began with 4x5 inch transparency film, and currently uses a Fuji GFX-SoR. He currently lives near Prescott, Arizona. Dolde considers a total workflow from capturing the image to producing and framing the final print as essential in producing a fine art piece of the highest quality possible. He feels that a photograph helps people see things they might not see otherwise. Dolde is a graduate of Indiana University with a BS in Mathematics who has won several awards at the 29 Palms Art Gallery, Escondido Art Association, Sedona Arts Center, and San Diego Museum of Natural History. Dolde regularly shows and sells his work at the Sedona Arts Center and the Hi-Desert Cultural Center in Yucca Valley, CA. He is also represented by the Sparks Gallery in San Diego. https://www.douglasdolde.com/



Celia Drake | Phoenix, Arizona Stone Landscape – Photograph 8x10

As a 5th generation Californian, Celia Drake was connected to the ocean and the land. Although she also has lived in Mississippi, Ohio, Nevada, Alaska, and now Arizona, the differences expanded. "The connections are through artistic expression in different formats. I started with photography in my twenties. I loved to walk the streets of cities, photographing people, skies, and buildings. The depth of the experience of art is to all that is in the world. It is profound, as I tend to see art in almost everything. It could be a bug on the ground, a piece of metal, or the expression of individual experience. From photography to abstract art (painting, sculpture) and ceramics, I feel a physical connection that is infusing. It has become such a core of my being that I am touched by what I see, hear, and feel with the ultimate creation of all that we exist in and with."

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Rick Drake | Santa Barbara, California A Bygone View – Oil on Canvas 18x24

Rick Drake is a landscape artist based in Santa Barbara. He is a member of the Santa Barbara Art Association, the Goleta Valley Art Association, SCAPE, and The Oak Group. He has exhibited at the Palm Loft Gallery and the California Nature Art Museum (formerly the Wildling Museum). Drake is not an artist by early training; he graduated with a BA in history from Beloit College, eventually training to teach in Montessori schools and adding a MA in reading from UC Santa Barbara along the way. He started painting at age 50 when his wife bought him a set of watercolors and instruction with talented local artist John Iwerks. That start gave him a sample of what painting outdoors was about; noticing details one sees when observing from one place for a period of time. He eventually switched to oils, a medium better suited to a slow pace.



Warner V Graves III | Cathedral City, California Smiled Inside the Storm – Latex on Canvas 48x30

As an artist and an avid desert explorer, Warner Graves aims to create work that builds on the rich traditions of desert landscape painting but brings in a personal aesthetic. His work seeks to bridge traditional desert landscape painting with explorations in contemporary art. "My plein air studies are often the source of inspiration for larger studio work. I enjoy the challenge of depicting the natural world via plein air and then recreating my impressions with larger studio pieces." His backgrounds come to play in the larger work—an appreciation of vintage travel posters, his work as a muralist, and his love of nature. He hopes the viewer is challenged to view the natural world not as a static form but as a living entity, imbued with vitality and flux. Graves' work has been exhibited at Desert Art Center in Palm Springs and in various group and solo shows at other Southern California galleries and museums. https://www.warnergraves.net/

Kim Halvorson | La Quinta, California Desert Bloom – Oil 24x20

Raised in Southern California and Arizona, Kim Halvorson crafts vivid oil paintings that serve as homages to the American West. With a degree in marketing and a minor in art from college in Flagstaff, Arizona, she captures the drama of landscapes through masterful use of color, light, and shadow. Her work embodies her love for the region's diverse landscapes, a passion kindled by childhood visits to the nation's national parks. In a harmonious blend of art and life, her marriage to a landscape photographer provides an endless well of inspiration. Passionate about plein-air painting, these outdoor sessions serve as studies for her immersive studio pieces. She aims to go beyond mere observation; her art invites viewers to feel each scene, sparking a sense of discovery and connection to the land's history and present. Instagram: @KimHalvorsonArt

Larry Hemmerich | Thousand Palms, California JTNP Rocks – Soft Pastels 12x20

Larry Hemmerich's artwork is a window into his love for the natural world. "I am inspired by all that surrounds me. I am passionate about capturing the beauty of nature with my pastels. My works are the result of the hiking I do in the desert and mountains surrounding my Palm Springs home. I work from photography and in plein air. My desire is to capture a moment, a scene that you may never see in person but can still lose yourself in as if to experience it for yourself." After being gifted a set of pastels over a decade ago, he discovered a medium that worked for him—the rich pigments and dry blending that he was looking for. Hemmerich is an Associate Member of California Art Club and the Palm Springs Artists Council. In 2019, he was juried into the Pastel Society of the West Coast and Pastel Society of America. https://larryhemmerich.com/





Doug Henry | Trabuco Canyon, California Blustery Afternoon – Photograph 11x15

Doug Henry is a Southern California-based visual artist. His sense of composition and color are influenced by a long career as a graphic designer working for many well-known companies. His images focus on the small elements within a larger frame that give a deeper sense of place. Working in both color and black and white, his work reflects the everyday and his sense of wonder at the natural world. "I photograph what I see and try not to limit myself to any one style, genre, or way of seeing. Stopping to be present in my surroundings allows me to see the small details of light, shape, and color that are easily overlooked. When shooting, I focus on subject and composition and let the final capture dictate whether it will be color or black and white." His juried exhibitions include Praxis Photographic Arts, MN; Cooperstown Art Association, NY; and Brownsville Museum of Fine Arts, TX. http://www.dhenrydesign.biz/



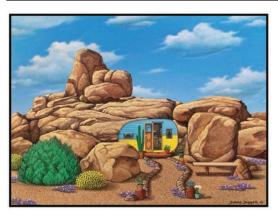
Christine Houser | Palm Desert, California Lone Ranger – Mixed Media 14x11

Christine Houser is a photographer, painter, and collage artist living in Palm Desert, CA. She is also an avid reader and traveler and has lived in Colorado, Oregon, Washington, Greece, and New Zealand. Her mixed-media art is an homage to nature and the southwest. She has described her family as "southwesters" with a deep love for and commitment to nature, and artistic DNA for generations. "I've travelled the world, but remain most in love with the slanted light, warm colors, iconic shapes, and thorny textures of our deserts." Houser's artwork is on display at Desert Art Center in Palm Springs and was previously featured in the JTNP Art Expo juried exhibition 2021.



Rachel Ivanyi | Tucson, Arizona *Metamorphosis –* Watercolor Mounted on Board 18x24

Rachel Ivanyi is an award-winning conservation artist, art educator, and illustrator, with a background in zoology and scientific illustration. Based in Tucson, Arizona, her art lives in the hope that people look closer, feel deeper, and make positive change in their lives and in the lives of others. Her work has been featured in solo, two-person, and group exhibitions, with many of her paintings appearing throughout the U.S. and internationally as part of permanent museum collections and in numerous private collections. Her illustration clients include the Smithsonian, National Geographic, Scientific American, Monterey Bay Aquarium, and nature institutions around the world. Ivanyi is a signature member of Artists for Conservation (AFC). Instagram: @rachelivanyi https://rachelivanyi.com/



Snake Jagger | Morongo Valley, California Come On Inn – Acrylic on Canvas 15x20

Artist Snake Jagger's complex iconography has been an important part of his work for over 40 years. His paintings are a blend of fact and fantasy. He begins with what he knows best—the California Desert—and transforms that raw material into novel images. His technique details every rock, cactus, and palm frond, giving it an intense presence. He paints in a style he calls "whimsical surrealism," and his artwork is meant to entertain, but also to inspire thoughts of preserving our home planet. Jagger's work has been widely exhibited throughout the U.S. and Europe, including the La Quinta Arts Festival, Indian Wells Art Festival, Catalina Festival of Art, Art in the Park in Henley on the Thames in England, and many other art festivals and galleries. Jagger now shows his artwork at his home gallery, Snake Jagger Studio, by appointment, and in the annual Hwy 62 Art Tours. https://www.snakejagger.com/

Casey Kiernan | Joshua Tree, California Lonely Winter – Photograph 14x36

Casey Kiernan is a photographer and filmmaker living in Joshua Tree, CA. Kiernan teaches small photography workshops, available to all skill levels, in Joshua Tree National Park and Death Valley National Park—specializing in Milky Way photography, timelapse photography, and dark skies techniques, including light painting, star trails, and astrophotography. He also leads treks to Iceland to capture the Northern Lights. A professional photographer for over two



decades, with coverage in numerous magazines, from *Sunset* to *Visit California*, his work also has appeared on TV, in various independent film festivals, and in numerous publications. In recent years, Kiernan has become a leader in conservation efforts to protect the Joshua trees in the California desert and has produced a documentary film titled "I Thought They Were Protected." https://www.joshuatreeworkshops.com/

Angel LaCanfora | Torrance, California 3D – Storm Clouds Gathering – Stained Glass Mosaic 12x12

Self-taught mosaic artist Angel La Canfora has always found peace and healing through music and art. In 2005, she was pursuing a degree in anthropology when she suffered a health setback. Angel, who is a musician, started to find playing instruments too painful so she sought a gentler creative outlet. This was how she found mosaics. Within a year of making her first, she was exhibiting fine art mosaics in galleries and online. Her stained-glass mosaic artworks have appeared in several past JTNP Art Expo juried exhibitions. Also, she has hosted two month-long solo exhibitions at the Lost City Museum near Las Vegas. She presently sells her mosaics through her Etsy shop, "Mojave Mosaics."

https://lacanforaas.wixsite.com/angellacanfora

John MacLeod | Victorville, California Storm Rising – Oil 36x24

John MacLeod's interest in art started with his father, an oil painter. "His inspiration and the art shows he attended inspired me to start painting. In time, I showed at the same gallery as my father in Southwest Art Gallery in Balboa Park, San Diego." MacLeod works in oils and acrylics and is mostly a self-taught artist, although he did take a basic art class in community college and a seminar on painting seascapes in his early 20s. Today he lives in the desert where it has been an inspiration to see and paint the many faces of the desert. "My paintings are a creative expression of a much bigger and complex creation that still ignites the wonder of it all inside me. Joshua Tree National Park is a place of beauty and inspiration and where color, light, and shadows can be found. I want to convey this wonder to the viewer of my paintings."

William Makuta | Desert Hot Springs, California 3D – Golden Dawn – Watercolor, Acrylic, Found Objects 12.5x7.5x4.5

William Makuta is a multi-media artist with an extremely vast background in all mediums, ranging from design—stage, film, and TV commercials—and home and business décor, to mural work in New York City and Los Angeles. He is a founding teaching artist in the Coachella Valley for "Tools for Tomorrow," a nonprofit providing free after-school classes and programs in integrated arts, with hands-on creative experiences for children. For the past two years, Makuta has shown his art in the "Water in the Desert" exhibitions at Joshua Tree Gallery of Contemporary Art, and he shows often at The Beatnik in Joshua Tree, where has been performing music since 2004.







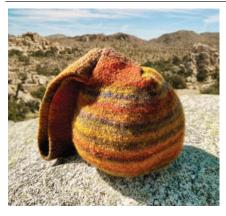
Michele Marlowe | Yucca Valley, California December Moonset – Ink 11x14

Artist Michele Mercier Marlowe began painting with oils as a hobby in the 1970s. When her babies became toddlers, the paints were put aside. A few years ago, she decided to try her hand with watercolors. While exploring watercolors, she discovered alcohol inks, a medium similar to watercolor but using alcohol-based rather than water-based pigments. The inks are applied to a non-absorbent surface such as ceramic tiles, metal, glass, or Yupo. The vibrant colors of the inks captured her spirit. "Alcohol ink has a mind of its own and can be difficult to control as it floats on the non-absorbent surface. This artist attempts to share control with the ink. Sometimes the ink wins; sometimes the artist wins. Either way, the effects can be fun." Marlowe grew up in California, then spent 40 years on the east coast. In 2017 she returned home to California and settled in Yucca Valley. https://www.artbym4.com/



Dean Mayo | Indio, California JT Sunset – Photograph on Canvas 24x36

As a landscape photographer since 2005, Dean Mayo's goal has been to photograph scenes that he finds interesting and compelling. "I believe my best photos are composed in a way that draws the viewer's eye to the main subject of the scene. Proper composition and perfect lighting are 90% of a great photo. I believe that final 10% is an intangible quality that the artist adds to the scene that separates their work from others." Mayo's early work consisted of golf courses in the Palm Springs area where it appealed to visiting golfers. As his love for photography grew, he ventured out to capture the amazing landscapes in his area and fell in love with national parks that were within a day's drive from his home. Today, he estimates landscape photography accounts for 90% of the images he takes. https://www.foretography.com/



Claire McKay | Bozeman, Montana 3D – Joshua Tree Pod Bag – Fiber Art, Wool 12x7

Growing up exploring Joshua Tree, Claire McKay has fond childhood memories of boulder hopping and climbing. The park is an integral part of her family since her parents met in Hidden Valley campground ~50 years ago. She is currently pursuing a PhD at Montana State University in Molecular Immunology, with art being an essential part of her life, opening her mind to endless inspiration. Her artwork has been in Montana and California galleries, and private collections nationwide. Her pieces blend nature and form; the wool she knits is hand-dyed using methods that reduce ecological impact and support small organic farms. Each pod is hand-felted, creating a material that is durable, yet beautifully unique. The colors remind her of Joshua Tree's beauty, the warm granite, desert wildflowers' fleeting beauty, and stunning sunsets. https://pinyonjaystudio.com/



llona Mercier | Yucca Valley, California The View – Ceramic Tile, Alcohol Ink 4x16

Ilona Mercier is an alcohol ink artist. "Even though I would doodle a lot as a kid, I didn't start painting until about 9 to 10 years ago after I saw the amazing colors of alcohol ink. It's always a challenge to control the inks (they are very unpredictable), but that's why I love them too. If I paint

something that doesn't naturally have vibrant colors, I like to turn up the saturation with the inks. For inspiration I can take a short drive into the park or just step outside my door to see beautiful sunsets, wildlife, and incredible rock formations. Yucca Valley has been home since 1980, and I wouldn't live anywhere else!" Mercier is one of the featured artists in the book by Kathy Taylor on alcohol inks called "Pigments of Your Imagination." When she's not creating art, Mercier works fulltime at Copper Mountain College in Joshua Tree. https://www.ilonamercierink.com/

Mitch Miller | Joshua Tree, California *Puzzle* – Photograph 16x24

Adversity often accompanies captivating landscape photography, and Southern California native Mitch Miller has grown comfortable with physical exertion, cold, heat, rain, snow, cactus needles, abrasive rocks, and even snakes, which is how he can enjoy capturing evocative art from nature with his cameras. He is mostly self-taught over many years and miles of trails and off-trail routes through the Sierra Nevada, Mojave Desert, and Colorado Desert. He fell so much in love with Joshua Tree National Monument that he spent every birthday there from 1984 through 1994 and was married in the redesignated National Park in 1999. He and his wife Kathy moved to Joshua Tree in 2017, and he's come to know the park well. Over time, adventure photography evolved into award-winning landscape photography, as he set waypoints for composition and returned for more memorable light. https://www.fineearthphotography.com/



Glenn Montroy | Colton, California Long Term Parking – Photograph 16x24

Glenn Montroy's photography journey began when he was 6, getting into his grandmother's photo box just to look at the photos from the 1930s and 40s. "My first photos were taken at 11 with a Kodak Brownie." The journey morphed into a serious hobby while taking photo and art classes in college, where he learned to see—not just look. Eventually his photography went from random to developing a style. "I really enjoyed learning the mysteries of making a darkroom print. The same was and is true about learning and using Photoshop." Montroy's photography includes trips to the Greek Islands, Egypt, and Israel, along with national and state parks and Baja California. "In Joshua Tree National Park I have day/night hiked upwards of 400 times, as I lived in Yucca Valley for 6 years."

Darlene Morris | Yucca Valley, California Joshua Tree NP Cap Rock I – Watercolor, Pen & Ink 10x7

Darlene H. Morris works in watercolor, acrylic, and mixed media with acrylic and collage. She has formal art instruction and has studied with well-known artists: Annette Paquet, Gerald Brommer, Katherine Chang Liu, Morten Solberg, Pat Dews, Louise Cadillac, and Helen Schafer Garcia. Her paintings have been juried into shows in the Southern California area since 1983. Morris has been a member of the Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council, San Diego Watercolor Society, Western Federation of Watercolor Societies, and the Twentynine Palms Artists' Guild. Her paintings in oil, watercolor, acrylic, and mixed media are in private collections across the United States. Her paintings reflect her love for the natural landscape and her appreciation of man-made structures. She believes art should be a spiritually uplifting experience for the beholder as well as the artist. She strives to bring a sense of peace and harmony into each painting.

Doyle Moyer | Yucca Valley, California Desert Blue Bell Two – Pen & Pencil Drawing 10x8

Doyle Moyer is a desert pen and ink and color pencil artist. It's all about the details. With sharp eyes and a very fine pen he creates the ultimate images with all their fine features. Moyer brings it up close and personal. Living flora and fauna from the distant desert to your home. From the hand of someone who walks Joshua Tree National Park in the summer with 20 pounds of water on his back to see them in habitat, far from human beings. Moyer started drawing as a child in the Southern California desert to entertain himself and grew a bond with the open spaces while learning to draw. This led him to develop pen and ink drawing skills for the rest of his life. Now he has mastered desert life in ink and colored pencil and is specializing in drawing and photographing the outdoor life of Joshua Tree National Park. Instagram: @desertbydoyle https://desertbydoyle.etsy.com







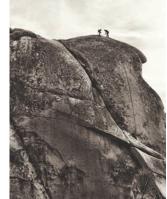
Eric Newnam | Rosamond, California Cholla Cactus Field – Photograph 8x12

During his years in the architectural program at Texas A&M University, Eric Newnam elected to take a course on photography, thinking that it would be an easy 'A'. "How hard could it be to press a stupid button?" he thought, having no idea that they would introduce him to a craft and a way of seeing that would preoccupy his life from then on. "Every minute of every day, in every direction I look, I see countless potential images, but most are never photographed.... As a former architect, I approach my visual work in the same way that I design things. Form is important, relationships between the forms are important, so is space, order, and light. During my architectural years, I had always been encouraged to see the correctness and benefits of modernism above all other schools of thought. This line of thinking has also permeated my outlook on the visual arts, especially my photography." https://www.ericnewnam.com



Leah North | Bakersfield, California The Joshua Tree – Oil on Clayboard 24x18

Leah North began training to create fine art at the young age of 10, at a studio in her hometown of Bakersfield, California. Her focus was realism, and she worked with soft pastels and paints to capture the world around her. Then she went to college to get her degree as a Mechanical Engineer. While developing her technical side, she continued to work on her creative studies and started focusing primarily on oil painting. Inspired by impressionist artists, she worked on incorporating the color and movement of impressionism into her own style. Since her engineering job took her to many different locations, she realized that she should take the opportunity to paint her travels, and she narrowed down her focus to landscapes and nature studies. North's goal is to allow the viewer to feel immersed in the landscape and appreciate the uniqueness of the local plants and wildlife. https://leahnorthgallery.com/



Diane Padys | Palm Springs, California Mountain Climbers – Photograph 20x16

For more than 25 years, Diane Padys has been a successful commercial photographer. Her clients have ranged from farmers to top-tier advertising agencies and Fortune 500 companies. She has had studios in Manhattan, San Francisco, and Seattle. Today, Padys lives in Palm Springs, California, where her focus has shifted from commercial to fine art photography. She has drawn profound inspiration from the desert landscape. Her visual emphasis continues to be on composition and form. Her images reveal the dynamic nature of her subjects. Diane says, "I love abstract expressionism, texture, and bringing out the uniqueness of the object I'm capturing." https://www.dianepadysphotography.com/



Jennifer Palmer-Lacy | Joshua Tree, California Matter of Balance – Prismacolor, Acrylic, Luminous 14x11

Jenifer Palmer-Lacy works mostly in plein air to capture the power of landscape and architecture, rendering scenes in Prismacolor pencil, acrylic, and watercolor, with accents in luminous paint. Much of her work has been in parks in California, where she was a longtime advocate for Runyon Canyon and produced an annual arts celebration. She holds a degree in Art and MA in Humanities from Cal State Dominguez Hills. Born in Oklahoma, raised in Texas, she moved to California in 1979, after working as a production artist for KPFT (Pacifica) Radio and Ringling Brothers Circus. As Mandy in the Morning, she also hosted the drive time music/news program at the station for 9 years. In Los Angeles, she continued to work in production art and taught at Elysian Heights Elementary School, spending weekends in Joshua Tree. She also writes poetry under the name lalo kikiriki and plays the accordion.

Yasmeen Pico | Joshua Tree, California Arch Rock 2024 – Giclee Print 16x24

Yasmeen Pico is a former costume designer and fashion stylist with more than 25 years of experience and over a decade of photography experience. Photography became an extension of her love of storytelling, a natural progression after working around some of the most well-known photographers of our time. She is currently pursuing a BS in Therapeutic Horticulture while living in Joshua Tree, where she captures the High Desert's natural beauty. Her photography aims to deepen others' connections to this unique region and inspire its preservation and conservation. In addition, her current portfolio includes an ever-evolving portrait series of fellow desert artists in the Joshua Tree area. https://www.joshuatreeprints.com/



Shelby Piersant | Rancho Santa Margarita, California Life in the Desert – Digital Art, Clip Studio Paint 40x27

Shelby Piersant is an artist from Orange County, California, who goes by she/they pronouns. They love making comics and creating stories, but the natural world has always inspired them, especially Joshua Tree National Park. Piersant has been making art since she was little, but only started appreciating and actually putting work into their practice in high school. A lot has happened in the 15 years since then, and she's not super into writing bios when she could be drawing, so she'll leave that up to your imagination. Currently, she's passionate about teaching art at her day job, and wants to eventually return to school with a focus on environmental science.

Shae Zoe Reardon | Carlsbad, California Coyote Canyon – Oil on Linen 36x48

Shae Reardon is a full-time oil painter born and based in Southern California. She draws inspiration from the captivating natural world that surrounds her. Exploring the diverse landscapes of California, with a special interest in desert scenery and wildlife, she gathers ideas and references to incorporate into her artistic endeavors. She is particularly intrigued by the intricate details of plant life observed up close. Her artistic process involves intimately examining her subjects under the presence of sunlight, capturing the essence of their organic forms, textures, and colors. As she works, she infuses her own artistic interpretation, adding depth, contrast, and emphasized color. By presenting small flowers and plants on a larger scale, she offers viewers a visually striking display of vibrant hues. Reardon is a member of American Women Artists. https://shaezoereardon.com/

Melissa Rimada | 29 Palms, California 3D – Joshua Tree Woven – Fiber Art 27x20

Melisa Rimada is a 29 Palms Mexican Fiber Artist. She was born in Torreón, Coahuila Mexico, and migrated to Indio at a very young age. She has been creating art most of her life. At a young age she was part of many art fairs, and in high school she had the opportunity to showcase a sculpture at the Palm Springs Art Museum. Rimada studied History of Art and Ceramics in college. She moved to the High Desert in 2019 and since then has been creating fiber art pieces inspired by the beautiful desert, Joshua trees, and her rich Indigenous culture. She also loves to incorporate rusty metals and desert driftwood into some of her work. Instagram: @diydreamerstudio







Wendy Roberts | Bel Air, Maryland 3D – Sunset – Fiber Art, Tapestry, 10.75 x 13.5 x 1

Wendy Roberts is a fiber artist that weaves graphic images reflective of the interaction of color and texture inspired by the natural world. Currently, she is weaving the Frame Series. Each piece in this series transforms a vintage picture frame into a weaving loom exploring the tension between craft and art. Captivated by the California high desert, several pieces in this series reflect inspiration from her 2023 Self-Structured Residency Program at A-Z West in Joshua Tree. Roberts has a BFA from Maryland Institute College of Art and currently maintains a fiber studio in Harford County, Maryland. She has served as the Director of Communications on the board of the Textile Society of America. This tapesty weave uses a wool weft and cotton warp. Instagram: @wendyrobertsfiber https://wendyrobertsfiber.com/



Tami Roleff | Yucca Valley, California Pink Ruins Under a Pink Sky – Photograph on Metal 16x20

Photographer Tami Roleff grew up in Minnesota, went to college in Iowa, and married the boy next door in Minnesota. The Marine Corps sent them all over the world until they landed in Yucca Valley, where they've lived since 2004. Her passion is photographing animals, followed closely by photographing the desert at night, as well as historical artifacts and ruins. Her best-selling images, however, are of Joshua trees, the unique symbol of the Mojave Desert. She has taken classes and workshops with nationally known photographers. Her photos have received multiple awards, including Best Photo Taken in Joshua Tree National Park in 2011, and her photos been accepted into several juried art shows in the Hi-Desert and Low Desert, and her photos are in private collections around the world. https://tamiroleff.pixels.com/



Laurie Schafer | Yucca Valley, California

3D – Monsoon in the Mojave – Felted Mixed Fibers with Beads 45x45

Laurie Schafer creates mixed media artworks, paintings, drawings, and installations; stitching together moments that exist to punctuate the human drama, to clarify our existence, and to find poetic meaning in everyday life. "Joshua Tree National Park holds endless inspiration for me to create my fiber/mixed media work. Many envision the desert as dead, but the changing seasons, monsoons, and wind create a constant ebb and flow; painting the desert with an occasional super bloom, the shifting sands expose new jewels, rock formations, and sometimes even remainders of the seas that once covered areas of the desert. As a Minnesotan transplanted to the desert, I long for verdant greens and blues and so I search for the color found in the desert. The expansive vistas of Joshua Tree National Park create a seductive poetry, a dangerous beauty different from any other." Instagram: @ballerinawithagun FB: laurieschafer



Craig Schoenbaum | Culver City, California Towering Tempest – Photograph 32x40

Ever since his first photography class at Loyola Marymount University more than 35 years ago, Craig Schoenbaum has loved creating artistic photographic images. There he learned how to control the image-making process from initial concept to final print. "My photographic history began with my grandfather who was a still photographer for the movie studios in Culver City and Hollywood from the 1930s to 1950s. I continued his legacy using digital cameras beginning in 2002 at a workshop in Yosemite National Park, and since then I have experienced renewed enthusiasm and creativity for photography as an art form. Now a computer is my darkroom, giving me more control over the creative process to accurately convey memories and emotions. The magnificence of our national parks has been a favorite subject matter, with Joshua Tree exemplifying the beauty and wonder of desert life in California."

Mark Spicak | Palm Springs, California Among the Boulders - Oil on Canvas 24x30

Mark Spicak grew up in southern Texas near Corpus Christi, then lived in eastern Texas (Houston), central Texas (Austin, Kerrville), and northern Texas (Dallas). "After an ill-fated attempt to live in Texas again, this time in western Texas (Alpine) and discovering that the Texas I knew doesn't exist anymore, I've returned to the California desert (Palm Springs). Of course, the California of 30 years ago doesn't exist anymore either." Master artists of the past left a record of the landscapes that existed during their times for future generations. In many cases these artworks are the only experience we have now of what existed then. "Fortunately, this desert we inhabit now still has some washes and arroyos with smoke trees and desert willows, and rocky foothills with sometimes-blooming brittlebushes surrounded by purple mountain ranges, which can inspire artists to leave a record for future generations of desert dwellers." IG: @marcusaureliuuus

Liv Stofko | Yucca Valley, California Yucca Brevifolia Blossoms – Ink Drawing 24x18

Liv Dorothy Stofko's fascination with the creative world began when she was a child, growing up with her incredibly lovely and artistic Nana Ernestine. After years of practicing and learning to love many mediums, she has ultimately found her style in black ink pen drawings. Based in Yucca Valley, she thanks her lucky stars every day to be surrounded by such serene and wondrous flora. She embraces time by studying elaborate details and allowing her imagination to transcribe the uniquely delicate layers that are present within old-growth plants of the desert. When she's not drawing, she spends her free days working on stained glass, listening to music, and exploring the desert. https://www.livstofko.com/

Rick Strobaugh | Yucaipa, California Pile of Rocks – Photograph 16x24

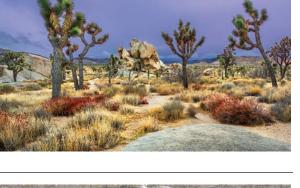
Rick Strobaugh received his training in photography in the film days by photographing dead bodies, serious injuries, fatal/major injury traffic accidents, autopsies, and other crime scenes as a detective in charge of the CSI division for Redlands Police Department. Wanting to photograph more pleasing subject matter, he started shooting landscapes, wildlife, and macro photography. He travels the western U.S. on photo trips during the year to scenic areas and tries to capture the beauty of the area with his camera, from national parks to rock formations and cliffs along the California coast. Strobaugh joined Redlands Camera Club many years ago to learn from more experienced photographers in the club. Now he helps newer photographers as the Mentor for the club. http://photographybyrickstrobaugh.com

Gillyan Thorburn | 29 Palms, California Lonesome Pine – Photograph 16x24

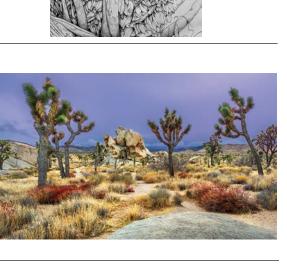
Gillyan Thorburn has been exploring Joshua Tree National Park since she moved to the High Desert at the end of 2012. In the past few years, she has blended her love and curiosity about nature and her love for photography to tell nature-telling stories. Her late grandmother introduced her to shapes, colors, and textures through traditional Sabunese (Indonesia) sarongs, which express the wearer's connection to their ancestors and to the land as well as oral traditions. Her late grandmother's influence can be seen in her photography. "Whenever I am out exploring Joshua Tree National Park, I get to witness nature-telling stories. I always love oral tradition; something my late grandmother introduced me to when I was a child. Here I use my camera as a tool to record nature-telling stories." Facebook: gillyan.thorburn







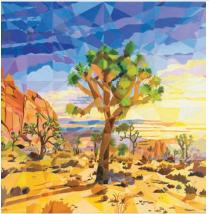






Cher Townsend | Yucca Valley, California 3D – Life in the Desert – Clay Sculpture, Mixed Media 32x32x2

Artist Cher Townsend says: "I love making things. Mostly I do figurative sculpture in clay. Some are fun pieces that are part animal and part human with a story for the viewer to figure out. Sometimes I'll add objects to the pieces. Lately I've been doing desert creatures." Townsend often adds objects, fabric, glass, and encaustic painting to her clay work, trying out different surface treatments depending on the piece. "When you read most artist statements, people are very philosophical about their work. I just like to go play with my clay. Usually, I have an idea in my head of what I want to do, but once I start a piece and it takes on a life of its own, I go with it." Townsend's sculptures have been in the American Museum of Ceramic Art, and her sculpture "Memories" is in the permanent collection at the Museum of Encaustic Art in Santa Fe. https://www.chertownsend.com



Raymundo Valdez | San Francisco, California Joshua Tree – Oil on Canvas 38x37

Raymundo Valdez is a Mexican-American artist born and raised in Mexico City. His work is inspired by the unexplored forms that an environment brings. The color, light, and textures of the places he loves fuel his fascination with finding beautiful geometric figures around him. Valdez was born in 1969 and began his art studies as a child, but he is primarily self-taught. He has a degree in graphic design and worked as a creative director, and for several years he has oriented his career as a fine artist. He lives in San Francisco and Palm Springs, where he finds inspiration. In 2024 he won 2nd place in the 3rd annual "Paint the Desert" contest in Palm Desert. In 2009 he won 2nd place in the Tom of Finland Foundation's "Emerging Artists Competition" in Los Angeles. Valdez is represented by a prestigious gallery in Mexico City and has participated in numerous exhibitions over the years. https://raymundovaldezartist.com



Marie Van Dorp-Skelly | Sunland, California As Above, So Below – Oil 36x18

Southern California artist Marie Van Dorp-Skelly graduated from Cal State Northridge and continued her studies at the California Art Institute. She has been an Art Instructor for Mission:Renaissance Fine Art Classes for almost 30 years. Helping students between the ages of 5 to 14 years old develop their artistic talents and connect with their creativity has been a joy and inspiration for her. She has exhibited in a variety of venues such as the Palm Springs Art Museum, Yosemite Renaissance, "Power and Voice" women's art exhibit in Baldwin Park, "Rejoice" Art Show in Redondo Beach, and won best of show at Joshua Tree National Park Art Exposition in 2020. The Joshua tree is an amazing plant species; it has developed a specialized root system to survive the desert's hot temperatures and scarcity of rain. "As Above So Below" is a reflection of the symmetry of nature and the interconnection between earth and sky.



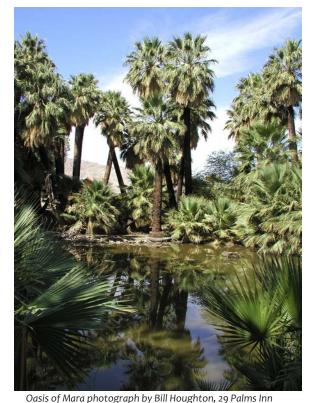
Steven Wybenga | Morongo Valley, California Spellbound – Oil on Canvas Panel 11x14

Steven Wybenga lives in Morongo Valley, immersed and surrounded by the beauty and mystique of the hi-desert. He works as a full-time Registered Nurse for a local hospice agency and paints daily to find his center and to capture and honor the natural beauty of the desert. HIs landscape paintings are an interpretation of this vast and beautiful but threatened desert. "Artists have long documented our stunning desert, drawing attention and awareness to the public of this everchanging land. The desert remains at risk from human exploitation, fire, pollution, and climate change. The responsibility to advocate for the desert ecosystem rests in all our hands." Wybenga has painted under such accomplished artists as Jean Henry, Sharon Pearson, and Nina Wisniewski of San Francisco; Bruce Weber, Jessica Schiffman, Terry Masters, Elaine Mathews from Coachella Valley; and Chloe Allred from Yucca Valley. He is a yearly participant in the Hwy 62 Art Tours.

Oasis of Mara at 29 Palms

n deserts, the presence of water—that rarest of desert commodities —allows life to flourish and provides an oasis for nature 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. A line of *Washingtonia filifera* palm trees on the horizon near the oasis signaled water and shade to all early travelers who crossed the Mojave Desert. Geologic surveys have measured evidence of water in the oasis area dating back 9,000 years. This was surely important for the Pinto Man, whose archeaological remains were discovered within the park boundaries by Twentynine Palms homesteaders William and Elizabeth Campbell back in the 1920s-30s.

The oasis also was home to early Native Americans and was first settled by the Serrano, who called it Mara, "the place of little springs and much grass." They were joined later by the Chemehuevi, who settled at the oasis and intermingled peacefully with the Serrano. A few Cahuilla also were known to be at the oasis, although mostly they settled in the low desert. Desert surveyor Col. Henry Washington arrived at the oasis in 1855, followed by A.P. Green, and they 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.



The Native Americans were followed by gold prospectors and cattlemen of the 1870s–1880s, desert explorers, travelers, and

homesteaders of the early 1900s, and veterans who came to heal their war-damaged lungs after World War I and built a permanent community. Today, the Oasis of Mara is home to Joshua Tree National Park Headquarters and several cultural venues, including the 29 Palms Art Gallery, 29 Palms Creative Center, 29 Palms Historical Society's Old Schoolhouse Museum, and the 29 Palms Inn, which has the last remaining oasis pond. # (Adapted from an original piece by Paul F. Smith, 29 Palms Inn, 2013)



Homesteaders Bill & Ada Hatch and friends in Hidden Valley, 1933

Brief History of the Park

President Franklin D. Roosevelt recognized the beauty of this desert region of Southern California when he created Joshua Tree National Monument in 1936, thanks to the efforts of desert plant protector Minerva Hamilton Hoyt and photographer Stephen H. Willard. The monument was proclaimed Joshua Tree National Park in 1994 by President Bill Clinton. But for 9,000 years, Native Americans had lived amid its monolithic rocks and strange Joshua trees. Serrano and Chemehuevi , and later Cahuilla, camped at its Oasis of Mara, whose fan palms eventually gave Twentynine Palms its name and became home to Park Headquarters. Cattleman Bill McHaney arrived in 1879, learned of gold ore deposits from the native people, and began an influx of prospectors seeking fortunes, like Bill Keys. In the 1920s, Dr.

James B. Luckie of Pasadena discovered that the clean air and warm, dry climate helped veterans with respiratory illnesses and war-damaged lungs, and they homesteaded parcels of 160 acres and built a community. Artists, writers, actors, and musicians later discovered Twentynine Palms, and in the 1990s a renaissance in the arts began to flourish, spawning art studios, galleries, events, festivals, public art installations and outdoor murals that adorn the gateway to Joshua Tree National Park.

Joshua Tree National Park receives 3+ million visitors each year from around the globe—people who come to the park for rock climbing, bouldering, birding, hiking, camping, photographing and painting the monolithic rock formations and iconic Joshua trees, or enjoying the park's picnic areas and 550 campsites in its 800,000 acres, which encompass two distinct desert ecosystems, the Mojave and the Colorado deserts. Ranger-led programs offer interpretive hikes, tours of Desert Queen (Keys) Ranch, weekend ranger talks, and more. www.nps.gov/jotr (Adapted from an original piece by Vickie Waite and Paul F. Smith, 2007)

29 Palms Art Gallery



History of the adobe building

he 29 Palms Art Gallery opened in 1963 in a historic adobe home built in 1936 for author Tom J. Hopkins, western novelist and prolific story writer for magazines and films. A frequent desert visitor in the 1930s, in 1936 Hopkins contracted with local adobe builders, the Stubbs brothers, to build him a house near the Oasis of Mara in Twentynine Palms.

The small adobe consisted of an entryway with a corner kiva-style fireplace, living room and main fireplace, bedroom, kitchen, and bath. A detached garage had a stairway leading to the roof, which served as a deck for summer sleeping.

Supporting beams over the doors, windows, and breezeways were constructed with railroad ties used to build the Los Angeles Aqueduct in 1908-1913. After completion of the Aqueduct in 1913, the project's small-gauge Owens Valley railroad was abandoned and sold.

The Stubbs brothers bought some of the railroad ties and, at Hopkins request, they left the spikes in the ties to enhance the historic look of the house. The railroad spikes can still be seen in the lintels over the doorways and windows.

Mixture for the adobe bricks was brought from Mesquite Dry Lake in Twentynine Palms. Clay for the exterior plaster came from the old Anaconda Mine, located along the northeast border of what is now Joshua Tree National Park.

Fill dirt under the concrete floor is from the gold tailings of an old gold mill, which was located a few hundred yards east of the present Joshua Tree National Park Headquarters.

In the 1950s, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Stocking bought the house from their good friend Hopkins and added a tile floor and several improvements. When the Stockings put it up for sale in 1963, the Twentynine Palms Artists' Guild was leasing the nearby Charlton adobe next to 29 Palms Inn, and the members were looking for a permanent gallery home.

Guild director Ed Schiller and his wife Margaret purchased the adobe as an investment. They proposed to remodel the house to meet county standards for an art gallery and then lease it to the Guild with an option to buy within two years. Their offer was gratefully accepted. The new 29 Palms Art Gallery opened for its first season in October 1963. By 1967, the Guild had paid off the mortgage, the ashes of which were placed in a gold casket and mounted in the fireplace mantel of what was the living room and is now the East Gallery.

The detached one-car garage, originally used by Hopkins as a photography darkroom, was used for storage and later converted into the Gift Shop, which has financially supported the Gallery over the years.

In 1972, the Lee Lukes Pickering room was added to the Gallery, named after the former board president who had served for 18 years and had spearheaded the construction fundraising. This is now the Members Room and features art by Guild members most months of the year.

In 1992, the large West Wing was built to accommodate more artwork. A hallway between the two rooms contains John Hilton paintings and his bronze bust. The addition was built by local labor and funded by community support.

The 29 Palms Art Gallery is a landmark in the city, located at the historic Oasis of Mara near Joshua Tree National Park Headquarters. For many decades, the Gallery has hosted monthly exhibitions, art receptions, seasonal events, and art classes for all ages. Gallery season runs September to mid-August and hosts the Joshua Tree National Park Art Expo in November.



Twentynine Palms Artists' Guild is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, operated by a board of directors that meets monthly. Guild membership supports the Gallery and is open to all artists and art appreciators. –Vickie Waite



Inside the West Wing gallery during Nichole Vikdal/Susan Madsen show. (Vickie Waite photo)

29 Palms Art Gallery & Gift Shop 74055 Cottonwood Drive @ National Park Dr. Twentynine Palms, CA 92277 | 760.367.7819 https://29palmsartgallery.com

Historical Highlights

Birth of an Artists' Guild, 1951-52

rt and artists began appearing in the hi-desert in the mid-1930s, and more than a dozen notable artists were painting and exhibiting by the late 1940s. Abstract artist **Merritt Boyer** had his first showing of paintings in Helen Bagley's Shop in Twentynine Palms. **Michael Malloy**, one of the West's finest landscape artists, arrived in 1949 and became a frequent exhibitor. Artist **Kirk Martin** was creating western paintings in oil and wood-block prints, and portrait painter **Edna V. Onderdonk** was working in oils, charcoal, and pastel.

Later these artists would be among the founders of the Twentynine Palms Artists' Guild, the first arts organization in the Morongo Basin, founded in 1951-52.

Acclaimed artist **John W. Hilton** moved to Twentynine Palms in 1950 and began teaching art classes to local residents and exhibiting his desert paintings.

In October 1951, meeting at the home of Merritt and Carmen Boyer, eight desert artists founded the Twentynine Palms Artists' Guild—**Merritt Boyer, John W. Hilton** (founding president), **Evelyn Hutchinson, Michael Malloy, Kirk Martin, Vera Martin, Edna V. Onderdonk, and Fritiof Perssons**.

The next meeting was held in November at Hilton's studio in the Flying W Stables at the Campbell Ranch, then owned by Academy Award winning musician **Allie Wrubel**.

The new Twentynine Palms Artists' Guild hosted exhibitions in a variety of local buildings from 1951 to 1956. In February 1956, the Guild leased the Charlton adobe next to 29 Palms Inn, where they hosted art shows from 1956 to 1963.

In 1963, an opportunity arose to purchase a nearby adobe that had belonged to western novelist **Tom J. Hopkins**. In October 1963, the Hopkins adobe opened its doors as the Guild's new 29 Palms Art Gallery for the 1963-64 art season.

Many distinguished artists and celebrities appeared at Gallery functions in the 1960s, including actor **James Cagney**, who had a desert retreat in Twentynine Palms, attended social functions at the Gallery, and spent many creative hours with his friend John Hilton.

Ed Ainsworth, noted Los Angeles Times columnist, author, and friend of Hilton, often attended gallery events, as did actor and humorist Will Rogers, Jr. Exhibiting artists of the era ranged from locals Verne Gillespie, Jean Crowl, Irene Zimmers Charlton, and Phyllis Skelton (wife of Red Skelton) to watercolorist Robert E. Wood and noted cowboy artist Bill Bender. Another notable Gallery exhibitor and local resident was the nation's foremost wildflower painter, Henry R. Mockel. Master portrait painter Leslie B. De Mille of Laguna Beach (cousin of Cecil B.) often taught workshops at the Gallery, as did other prominent western artists of the era.

Today, the Guild hosts art classes and monthly art shows at the Gallery from September to mid-August, and hosts the JTNP Art Expo in November. The Guild is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit, supported by donations, memberships, and art sales in the Gallery and Gift Shop. Membership is open to all artists and art appreciators. -Vickie Waite



Actor James Cagney is seen sketching his friend ad mentor John Hilton in Hilton's art studio in the 1960s in 29 Palms. (Burton Frasher photo)



12th anniversary of Twentynine Palms Artists' Guild in 1963. Left to right: Ed Ainsworth, *Los Angeles Times* columnist and author; Lee Lukes Pickering, Guild president; Barbara Hilton, wife of John Hilton; Will Rogers Jr., actor, writer, humorist; and John W. Hilton, artist and founding member of the Guild in 1951-52. (Burton Frasher photo)



The Charlton adobe served as the Guild's gallery 1956–1963. Designed by Gerald W. Charlton in 1933-34, it was home to his widow, artist Irene Zimmers Charlton, until her death in 1997. It is now "Irene's Adobe" and part of 29 Palms Inn, down the street from today's 29 Palms Art Gallery.

ART EXPO JURORS 2024

urors for the Joshua Tree National Park Art Expo juried exhibition 2024 had the task of jurying **280 pieces of art** submitted by **122 artists** from the desert region, and across California and the U.S. It was a blind jurying process in which they viewed and scored the artwork only, without artist names. When all the scores were received and tallied from the five jurors, **60 artists** were selected for the exhibition, one piece of art per artist.

Theme for the juried exhibition is "artwork depicting or inspired by the natural aspects of Joshua Tree National Park or its cultural history." The exhibition features 2D, 3D, and Photography and is on display at 29 Palms Art Gallery, November 1–30, 2024. Regular gallery hours are Friday, Saturday, Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm.

Our thanks to this year's jurors...

NAOMI BROWN—Award-winning Southwest artist Naomi Brown is known for her desert landscapes and Western paintings, which have been featured in numerous national exhibitions and publications, including Southwest Art Magazine, Western Art Collector and American Art Collector magazines, and the cover of International Artist Magazine June/July 2023. A 29 Palms native now living in Arizona, she won first-place in the JTNP Art Expo 2021. https://www.naomibrownart.com/

TIM O'CONNOR—Graphic artist, illustrator, designer, and creator of humorous, political, and editorial cartoons for publications, Tim O'Connor has also painted numerous indoor and outdoor murals, including four historic murals in the Oasis of Murals in 29 Palms and several murals aboard the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center. O'Connor is a longtime resident artist and owner of O'Connor Graphics & Screen Printing in 29. https://oconnorgraphics.org

MARK ROBBEN—Photographer Mark Robben of Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, has focused on capturing the night skies over Joshua Tree National Park in recent years, utilizing digital and film photography, and is a previous award winner in the JTNP Art Expo. For his day job, he works as a Visual Effects Artist in feature films, commercials, TV, and occasional music videos for various post-production facilities in the Los Angeles area. www.skylightphotography.net

ANNA STUMP—Artist and arts educator Anna Stump received her MFA from San Diego State University and has been the recipient of international artist residencies, including Ireland, France, Mexico, and Senior Fulbright Scholar to the Fine Arts Department at Anadolu University in Turkey. She is currently Chair of the Public Arts Advisory Committee (PAAC) of the City of Twentynine Palms and owner of Mojaveland artistic mini-golf experience. https://www.annastump.com/

LEANNE WARREN—NPS Park Guide LeAnne Warren is the jury's representative from Joshua Tree National Park, where she helps visitors get the most out of the park experience, assisting in the visitor centers and leading talks in the park on its history, geology, flora, and fauna. Moving to Joshua Tree in 2019 after a career in broadcast operations, she has recently resumed creating artwork.

AWARD JUDGES 2024

ward Judges for the JTNP Art Expo juried exhibition 2024 were asked to view the exhibition at the 29 Palms Art Gallery on Nov. 1 to determine awards for the ______ artworks in three categories: 2-Dimensional, 3-Dimensional, and Photography—1st, 2nd, 3rd place in each category—plus Best of Show. In addition, Joshua Tree NP Superintendent Jane Rodgers will select an honorary Superintendent's Award. Gallery visitors can vote for a People's Choice award during the exhibition month, November 1–30, at the 29 Palms Art Gallery. Awards will be announced Nov. 2 and posted on the website, https://jtnpARTS.org. The Award Judges 2024 are...

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, and her photographs have won awards and have been published in *The Huffington Post*, *Spin, Clamor Magazine, Playboy*, and *Utne Reader*. Ruggiero received a degree in music from Leonard Davis Center for Performing Arts in NYC and Psychology from Antioch University, Los Angeles. https://jenniferruggiero.zenfolio.com

LINDA SHRADER—Artist, muralist, sculptor, photographer, arts advocate, and arts educator Linda Shrader is a two-time award winner in the JTNP Art Expo juried exhibitions for her 3-D "Joshua Tree Forever" sculptures. 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 honoring veterans of the Vietnam war, commissioned by the Manteco Mural Society, Manteca, CA. Shrader is an advocate for public art and has taught art classes to all ages. She was a founding board member of Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council, helped to create the original Open Studio Art Tours, and currently serves on the board of the new Hi-Desert Artists (HDA). https://lindashrader.com/

MARK SPANGENBERG – Fine artist Mark Spangenberg was born and raised in 29 Palms. He was influenced in his early years by forays to the L.A. County Museum of Art and later by European museums. Known as a contemporary realist, he received a BA in Illustration at Art Center College of Design in 1985. In 1980, he studied and practiced 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, while continuing his fine art and teaching drawing and painting. Returning to the desert in 2014, he has continued exhibiting and teaching art, has served on the Twentynine Palms Artists' Guild board, and is currently on the board of Joshua Tree National Park Council for the Arts. https://www.markspangenbergfineart.com/

Other Artists Who Portrayed the Park



Artist and photographer **Stephen H. Willard** (1894–1966) in his Palm Springs studio.

The photographer who helped create the Monument

American painter and photographer **Stephen H. Willard** (1894-1966) documented what is now Joshua Tree National Park in the 1930s and 1940s. In fact, his photographs were instrumental in establishing **Joshua Tree National Monument in 1936**. Willard was enlisted by **Minerva Hamilton Hoyt** to take photographs of parts of the Mojave Desert. She then took his images to Washington D.C. to lobby President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Congress to establish the Monument as a sanctuary for preservation of Joshua trees and desert cacti. Willard's photographs were a vital part of her presentation. For many in Congress, this was the first time they had ever seen this part of the West. In 1994, President William J. Clinton signed the Desert Protection Act which changed the Monument into Joshua Tree National Park. Today, the Park has more than 800,000 acres and attracts 3+ million visitors a year.

Minerva Hamilton Hoyt was a desert vegetation expert and a founder of the International Desert Conservation League for desert protection. She played a pivotal role in the creation of Joshua Tree National Monument in 1936. A Pasadena socialite, she was concerned about the destruction of desert cacti that people were uprooting to place in their city gardens, and she was determined to save the cacti and the Joshua trees.



Minerva Hamilton Hoyt



Artist John W. Hilton (1905-1983)-in his studio in 29 Palms, CA, circa 1950s. A master desert landscape painter, known for his palette knife strokes and soft desert colors, he was called "the man who captured sunshine" by biographer and friend Katherine Ainsworth. Hilton was cofounder of 29 Palms Artists' Guild in 1951-52 and served as its first president. A few of his desert oil paintings are still displayed at the 29 Palms Art Gallery. During his years in 29 Palms in the 1950s and 1960s, Hilton not only exhibited his artwork but also taught painting to the locals, many of whom tried to emulate his ability to capture light. To this day, desert paintings by unknown artists will surface in estate sales and thrift stores, as evidence of the master's teachings.



Botanical artist, illustrator, and printmaker, Henry R. Mockel (1905-1981) came to the U.S. from Germany in the 1920s and moved from New York to the Mojave Desert in 1958. He is seen here sketching at the Lost Horse Mine site in (then) Joshua Tree National Monument. He and his wife, Beverly, maintained Pioneer Art Gallery in 29 Palms in the 1960s and 1970s. His serigraphs and paintings of desert flora are in national collections, and he is well known for his book "Mockel's Desert Flower Notebook" published in 1971.



Desert landscape artist **Verne Lucinda Gillespie** (1901-1980) was a longtime resident of 29 Palms, starting in the 1960s. She was a member of the 29 Palms Artists' Guild and often exhibited her paintings at 29 Palms Art Gallery. She was well acquainted with all the flora and fauna of the desert and Joshua Tree National Monument, and she spent many hours sharing her talents and teaching small painting classes to the locals. Verne is seen here painting a plein-air piece at a Sidewalk Art Show outside Helen Bagley's Shop in The Plaza, 29 Palms, CA, in 1962.



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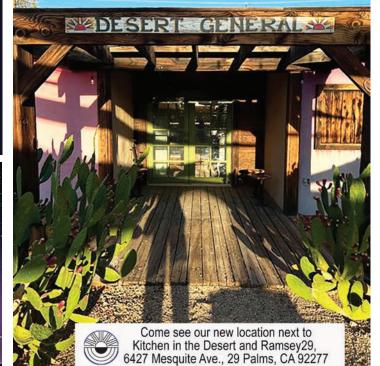
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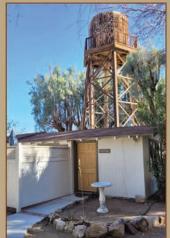
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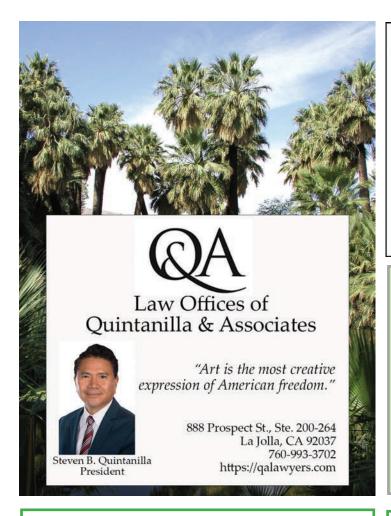




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IN MEMORIAM

We lost two important friends this year. In April 2024, Paul Smith passed away. Paul was co-owner of the historic 29 Palms Inn with his wife, Jane, who passed away in 2021. Paul was co-founder of our Joshua Tree National Park Council for the Arts 501(c)(3) back in 2013. He helped create this crazy JTNP Art Expo with then Park Superintendent Mark Butler. For the first 7 years,



the Art Expo booths and music were hosted on the lawn at the Inn (that was pre-Covid). Now, of course, the booths, music, food and beverages are all at 29 Palms Art Gallery for opening weekend of the juried exhibition. We thank Paul for his vision and for his support of the Park and the arts.



In May, we lost Michael Cook. He was our friend, our 29 Palms neighbor, and a great cook and fun bartender. Michael served as vice-president of our board of directors for Joshua Tree National Park Council for the Arts since 2021, and for years he had volunteered his time and energy to support our art events. He also coordinated the annual sponsorship from Quintanilla

& Associates with his longtime partner, Steven Quintanilla. And, in fact, I don't know what this year's event will look like for us without his smiling face and helping hands at the Art Expo. We miss you, Michael. -Vickie Waite

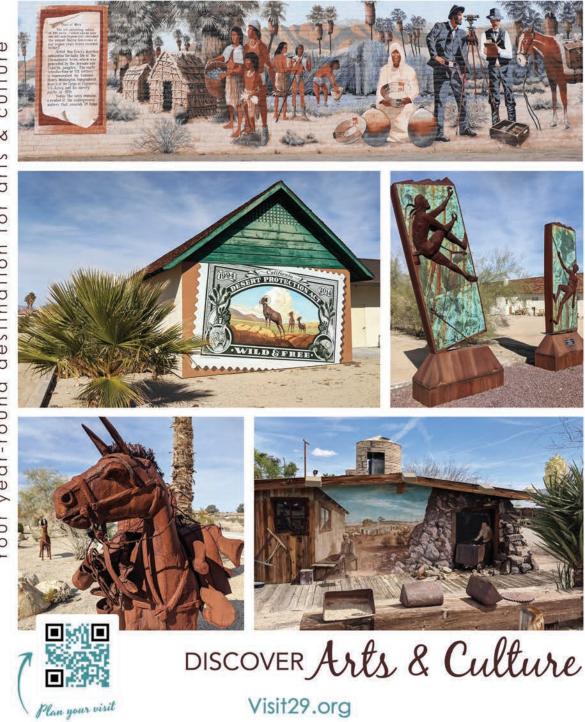
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Picnic in the Park, circa 1936-37. (Photo by Lester Krushat)

Scenic Joshua Tree National Park has been a popular destination for decades. It also has offered local residents a cool spot for a picnic on a hot summer day. In this historic photo, desert homesteaders are gathered for what was titled "A Bagley picnic in Indian Cove" circa 1936-37. (Pictured in the photo by Lester Krushat are: Helen Bagley, Frank Bagley, John Bagley, Rick Cain, Al Curry, Florence Curry, Bess Flickinger, Ray Flickinger, Art Krushat, Olive Krushat, Sara Krushat, Stan Krushat, Jimmy McCullum, Chuck Martin, Maude Martin, Tom Martin, Betty Michels, Edith Mildred Michels, George Michels, Ethyl Olsen, Heine Olsen, Alma Steeg, Ben Steeg, Dona Tower, Herb Tower, and a few more.)

President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed it Joshua Tree National Monument in 1936, and President Bill Clinton redesignated the monument as Joshua Tree National Park in 1994. Today, Joshua Tree National Park receives more than 3 million visitors each year from around the globe—people who come to the park for rock climbing, bouldering, birding, hiking, camping, picnicking, stargazing, filming, photographing, or painting and drawing the monolithic rock formations and iconic Joshua trees. The park's nearly 800,000 acres encompass two distinct desert ecosystems, the Mojave and the Colorado. The park hosts ranger-led programs, interpretive hikes, guided walks and talks, tours of Desert Queen (Keys) Ranch, Desert Institute classes, photography workshops, and more. Visit: www.nps.gov/jotr



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