



## **MEDIA RELEASE – JULY 25, 2017**

### **Artists Announced for Joshua Tree National Park Art Exposition 2017**

Sixty-three artists have been selected for the honor of displaying their artwork in the international juried exhibition for the fifth annual Joshua Tree National Park Art Exposition in September in Twentynine Palms, CA.

On Friday, July 21, a panel of six jurors met and juried 290 artwork images submitted by 120 artists from across the desert, California, the U.S., British Columbia and abroad. The jury selected 63 artists and art pieces depicting or inspired by Joshua Tree National Park for this year's show. Artwork ranged from oil and acrylic paintings, watercolors, mixed media, and photography, to ceramics, assemblage, and metal sculpture.

International artists selected for the show were David Flatt of Vancouver, British Columbia, and Izabela Pawlaczyk of Koszalin, Poland.

Seven out-of-state artists were selected: Pam Ambrosio of Tucson, Arizona; Chin J. Banham of Las Vegas, Nevada; James Bush (Remi JaBuh) of Scottsdale, Arizona; Shelly Hull of Denver, Colorado; Alexandra Taggart of Santa Fe, New Mexico; Katherine Tonnessen of Vashon, Washington; and Kim Zarney of Cleveland, Ohio.

Artists in the Joshua Tree Gateway Communities include Marcia Geiger of Landers, and Joshua Tree artists Raini Armstrong, Gerhard Kammer, Eileen Kaniefski, Jessie Keylon, Alane Levinsohn, Alita Van Vliet, and photographers Doug Dolde, Mitch Miller, Jim Smart, and John Van Vliet.

Twentynine Palms artists selected are Penelope Benson-Wright, Chuck Caplinger, Marilyn Fernald, Lisa Manifold, and Elisabeth Pollnow.

Yucca Valley artists in this year's exhibition are Hannah Campbell, Janis Commentz, Timothy Hearsom, Rossana Jeran, Ed Keesling, Daniel Lee, Ilona Mercier, Darlene Morris, Esther Shaw, Heather Sprague, Travis Usher, Nichole Vikdal, and Krista Wargo.

Artists from the Coachella Valley are Hunter Johnson and Douglas Shoemaker of Palm Springs; Robert Miramontes of Desert Hot Springs; Andrea Raft of Indio; Martha Villegas of Cathedral City; and Ehrick Wright of Rancho Mirage.

Other California artists are: Robert Arnett of Glendora (and Twentynine Palms); Valerie Messervy Birkhoff of Grass Valley; Linda Brown of Claremont; Teal Buehler of Chico; Larry Carpenter of San Marcos; Jane Culp of Anza; Lee Edwards of Duarte; Celeste Evans of Ojai; Michael E. Gordon of Long Beach; James Hammons of Sugarloaf (and Joshua Tree); Rose Ireland of Poway; Joan Lamensdorf of Pasadena; Greg Lucker of Murrietta; Chip Morton of Menifee; Christopher Pecharka of Laguna Niguel; David Sabet of San Clemente; Marie Van Dorp Skelly of Sunland; Brice Weaver of San Diego; and Jocelyn Young of Placentia.



One piece of art from each of the 63 artists will be displayed in the juried exhibition at the historic 29 Palms Art Gallery from Sept. 1 to Oct. 1. An awards reception will be held at the gallery on Saturday, Sept. 16, from 5 to 8 p.m.

The Art Exposition weekend celebration is set for Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 16 & 17, and will include an Art Market with artist booths, music, food and beverages on the lawn at 29 Palms Inn; art demonstrations and the exhibition at 29 Palms Art Gallery; a community mural project at 29 Palms Creative Center; ranger talks at the park's Oasis Visitor Center; nature walks at the Oasis of Mara; and other activities throughout the weekend. All events are admission free.

The 2017 jurors for the juried exhibition, working with facilitator John Cole and artist liaison Vickie Waite, were:

- Larry Cush of Yucca Valley, Artist, Mixed Media and Public Art, formerly of Cush Art Studio, La Quinta, and former juror for La Quinta Arts Festival.
- John Fisher of Redlands, Artist, retired Art Instructor at Redlands High School and former District Mentor, California Arts Project.
- Robert Hamilton, Art and Design Instructor, Twentynine Palms High School.
- Casey Kiernan, Photographer, Filmmaker, Owner of Joshua Tree Workshops.
- Danielle Segura, Executive Director, Mojave Desert Land Trust, Joshua Tree.
- Jane Smith, Art Collector, Owner of 29 Palms Inn.

The annual Joshua Tree National Park Art Exposition is presented by Joshua Tree National Park Council for the Arts, in partnership with 29 Palms Art Gallery, both 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations. For more information about the event, visit [www.jtnpARTS.org](http://www.jtnpARTS.org).

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PHOTO: Jurors for the juried exhibition were (left to right) John Fisher, Robert Hamilton, Casey Kiernan, Jane Smith, Danielle Segura, and Larry Cush.