



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Capitol Christmas Tree Juried Art Exhibition Celebrates Gift of Tree From Arizona to US Capitol; Features the work of Arizona Artists

PHOENIX, AZ (October 19, 2009) –Every year since 1970, a Christmas tree has been presented to the United States Congress from a national forest and is known as “The People’s Tree.” This year, for the first time, the tree will be a gift from Arizona. In honor of this occasion, the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, Arizona Commission on the Arts, and Arizona Art Alliance collaborated to host a statewide, juried art exhibition to select an official artwork to represent the 2009 National Capitol Christmas Tree (CCT).

The exhibition, on display during business hours at the Arizona Capitol Executive Tower Lobby now through October 30, 2009, recognizes the creative achievements of 33 visual artists from across the state. A panel of Arizona jurors selected the **Arizona’s Gift Award** recipient and 10 **Merit Award** recipients. Jurors included **Deb Bentlage**, Museum Curator & Collections Manager at the Phippen Art Museum, Prescott; **Kathy Duley** of Duley-Jones Gallery, Scottsdale; **Robert McCall**, Artist, Paradise Valley; and **Julia Patrick** of Frontdoors Lifestyle News and Capitol Christmas Tree Steering Committee, Phoenix. Nearly 3,000 Arizonans cast their vote to select the **Viewer’s Choice Award** recipient.

Award Descriptions and Recipients

Arizona’s Gift Award Recipient: Alan Arne (Phoenix)

Title: *Christmas in Arizona* (ink collage on paper)

Selected by the jury panel, Alan Arne’s artwork is designated the official 2009 Capitol Christmas Tree artwork and will travel with the Arizona Christmas tree on route to Washington, DC. Ultimately, the artwork will hang in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service for one year, becoming part of the permanent collection at “The Tree Gallery” in Washington, DC. Arne will be honored at Capitol Christmas Tree festivities in Phoenix during the month of November, and the artwork will be printed on holiday greeting cards.

Viewer’s Choice Award Recipient: Joye DeGoede Petrine (Cave Creek)

Title: *Passing on the Spirit of Nature to Future Generations* (pastel)

Selected by citizens of Arizona, Joye DeGoede Petrine’s artwork will become part of the State of Arizona’s permanent collection, destined for the Arizona State Governor’s Office. The artist will be honored at Capitol Christmas Tree festivities in Phoenix during the month of November, and the artwork will be printed on holiday greeting cards.

Merit Award Recipients:

Selected by the jury panel, the artwork of ten Merit Award recipients will be printed on holiday greeting cards:

Michael Cunningham, Goodyear, AZ

Title: *Seasons Greetings America*

Judith Delmonico-Roll, Scottsdale, AZ

Title: *Arizona's Gift*

Winona Fox Peterson, Mesa, AZ

Title: *Desert Rocks and Light on Christmas Night*

Judy Bottler, Mesa, AZ

Title: *Sahuaros in the Snow*

Liz Kenyon, Phoenix, AZ

Title: *Pine Art*

Richard T. Mangum, Chino Valley, AZ

Title: *Red Rock Christmas*

Roger Kirk Nelson, Glendale, AZ

Title: *From AZ to DC With Love*

Sandy Tracey, Apache Junction, AZ

Title: *Sonoran Holiday*

Dave Wilson, Phoenix, AZ

Title: *Christmas in March*

BJ Horsefall, Apache Junction, AZ

Title: *Luminary Christmas*

Artists Featured in Exhibition:

Alan Arne, Anne Allemann, Pat Beans, Judy Borrajero, Judy Bottler, Kenn Coplan, Jaxine Cummins, Michael Cunningham, Joye DeGoede Petrine, Judith Delmonico-Roll, Nancy Drigotas, John Fontana, Winona Fox Petersen, Linae Frei, Sylvia Herrera, Liz Kenyon, Roger Kirk Nelson, Chris Kitzmiller, Richard T. Mangum, Sarah McAnerny, Kathy C. McClure, Lee Anne Park, Julia Patterson, Judy Phillips, Jay Michael Schwartz, Arline Tinus, Sandy Tracey, Nancy Troupe, Samar Waterworth, Carmen Watts-Clayton, BJ Horsefall, Dave Wilson

About the Arizona Commission on the Arts

One of 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies across the United States, the Arizona Commission on the Arts is an agency of the State of Arizona that supports a statewide arts network. The Arizona Commission on the Arts supports access to quality arts and arts education opportunities for all Arizona citizens; the development and retention of statewide jobs in the nonprofit arts, culture and education sectors; and increased economic impact in local communities through arts-based partnerships that develop tax and small business revenue.

We imagine an Arizona where everyone can participate in and experience the arts.

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Images available upon request. To request this or any other agency publication in an alternative format, contact the Arts Commission offices at (602) 771-6501.



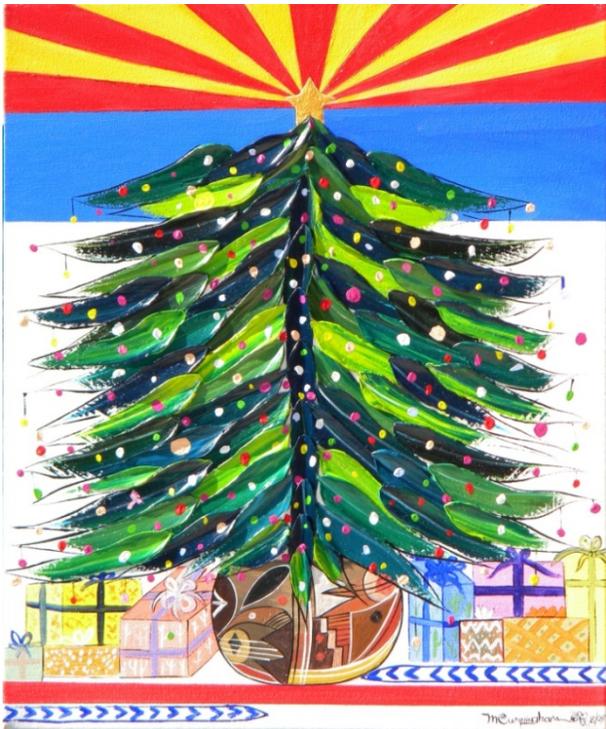
Arizona's Gift Award

Alan Arne, Phoenix
Christmas in Arizona
Ink Collage on Paper



Viewer's Choice Award

Joye DeGoede Petrine, Cave Creek
Passing on the Spirit of Nature to Future Generations
Pastel



Merit Award

Michael Cunningham, Goodyear
Seasons Greetings America
Oil on Canvas



Merit Award

Judith Delmonico-Roll, Scottsdale
Arizona's Gift
Acrylic



Merit Award

Dave Wilson, Phoenix
Christmas in March
Digital Photography



Merit Award

Judy Bottler, Mesa
Sahuaros in the Snow
Film Photography



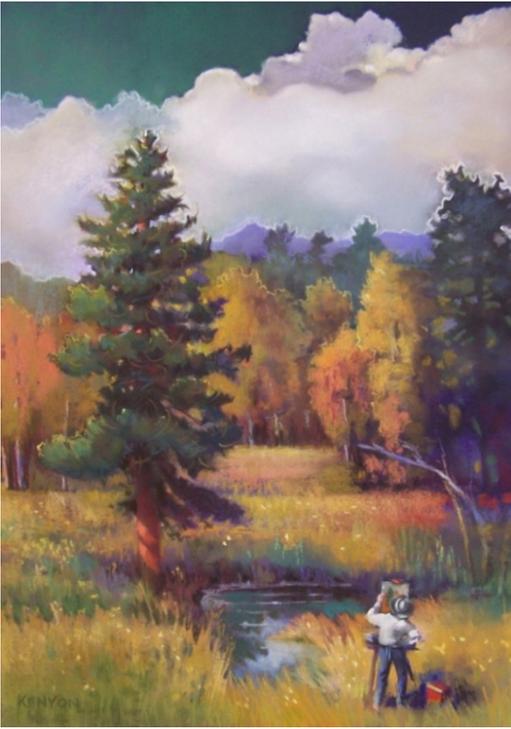
Merit Award

Winona Fox Petersen, Mesa
Desert Rocks and Light on Christmas Night
Acrylic on Canvas



Merit Award

BJ Horsfall, Apache Junction
Luminary Christmas
Digital Photography



Merit Award

Liz Kenyon, Phoenix
Pine Art
Soft Pastel



Merit Award

Richard T. Mangum, Chino Valley
Red Rock Christmas
Photography



Merit Award

Roger Kirk Nelson, Glendale
From AZ to DC with Love
Watercolor & Mixed Media



Merit Award

Sandy Tracey, Apache Junction
Sonoran Holiday
Mixed Media