



MEDIA RELEASE

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Southern Arizona Watercolor Artists Featured in New Exhibit

Tucson, AZ – A new art show at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum will shine the spotlight on winners of the Southern Arizona Watercolor Guild's (SAWG) 16th Annual Juried Exhibition. The Ironwood Gallery exhibition focuses on the Sonoran Desert as its subject matter and this exhibit opens on September 15 and runs through October 28, 2012.

Members of the Guild submitted their works and Kim Johnson, the show's juror, selected the pieces to be exhibited at the Museum during the show. "The Southern Arizona Watercolor Guild always emphasizes skill and creativity while demonstrating its member's greatest works in a variety of water media," states Holly Swangstu, the Museum's Art Institute Director.

The opening reception for the show, entitled *Fiesta Sonora*, will be held on September 15th from 2:00-4:00 PM. Gallery hours for the exhibition are 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM daily.

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The Desert Museum's Art Institute was founded in 2001 to promote appreciation and conservation of the Sonoran Desert through art exhibits in its gallery as well as art classes. "The Museum offers over 60 art classes and a certificate program in nature illustration," states Swangstu. "The classes cover a variety of media including watercolor, oil, sketching and photography and many sell out," she adds. A class schedule can be found at www.desertmuseum.org/arts.

Admission to the exhibition is included with Museum admission which is open daily from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm in September and from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm October.

The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is one of the nation's leading outdoor, living museums, featuring more than 230 animals and 1,200 varieties of desert plants. Its mission is to inspire people to live in harmony with the natural world by fostering love, appreciation, and understanding of the bi-national Sonoran Desert region. The museum is located at 2021 N. Kinney Road, in Tucson Mountain Park adjacent to Saguaro National Park (West). It is open daily year round with operating hours varying by season. Call (520) 883-2702 or visit www.desertmuseum.org for more information.

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