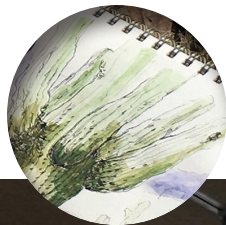


inside:



**CAMERAS,
CANVASES
& CUT
GLASS**
page 3



**TAKE A CLASS!
TAKE A TRIP!**
page 4



**ROCKIN'
MINERALS!!!**
page 7



**ARTS
UPDATE**
page 8

Desert Museum

Discovery

Fall/Winter 2023



ART as a Catalyst for Conservation

By Marie McGhee, Director of the Art Institute

Art and science, two seemingly distinct and separate disciplines, have long been intertwined in a symbiotic relationship that has shaped our understanding and appreciation of the natural world. While art may appear to be abstract and subjective, and science objective and analytical, both fields share a common goal: to understand and interpret the complexities of the natural world.

Art has the power to inspire scientific inquiry, pushing scientists to question the world around them in unconventional ways. Artists, with their unique perspectives and observations, often challenge existing paradigms, prompting scientists to explore new realms of understanding. For example, Vincent van Gogh's revolutionary use of light and color in his paintings influenced the development of color theory and physics. Similarly, the abstract and mathematical artworks of Piet Mondrian have inspired computer scientists in their exploration of algorithms and mathematical patterns.

In the 1990's, Mrs. Priscilla Baldwin studied botanical illustration and became an ardent conservationist. She envisioned ways to inspire others to embrace conservation while developing their artistic skills. In 2001

she and her husband Michael founded the Art Institute (AI) at the Desert Museum with the notion that the pursuit of artistic endeavors leads to a deeper understanding of conservation.

The Institute started out as a single course in a borrowed classroom. Today, it's comprised of two buildings, two galleries, 50 volunteers, and five staff members. Faculty teach art classes, staff and volunteers curate exhibits and manage a growing art collection, all of which serve the goal of conservation through art education. The Art Institute currently offers over 200 nature focused art and photography classes to more than 1,000 students annually.

...continued on page 2



Art Institute Classrooms & Gallery Facilities

Nature artists aspire to recreate the intricate patterns, vibrant colors, and delicate balance found in the natural world, providing viewers with a glimpse into its captivating wonders. The Institute utilizes the Desert Museum as a source of inspiration and subject matter for students. This immersive art experience in the Sonoran Desert highlights the need for conservation through the interactions with the flora and fauna of the Museum.

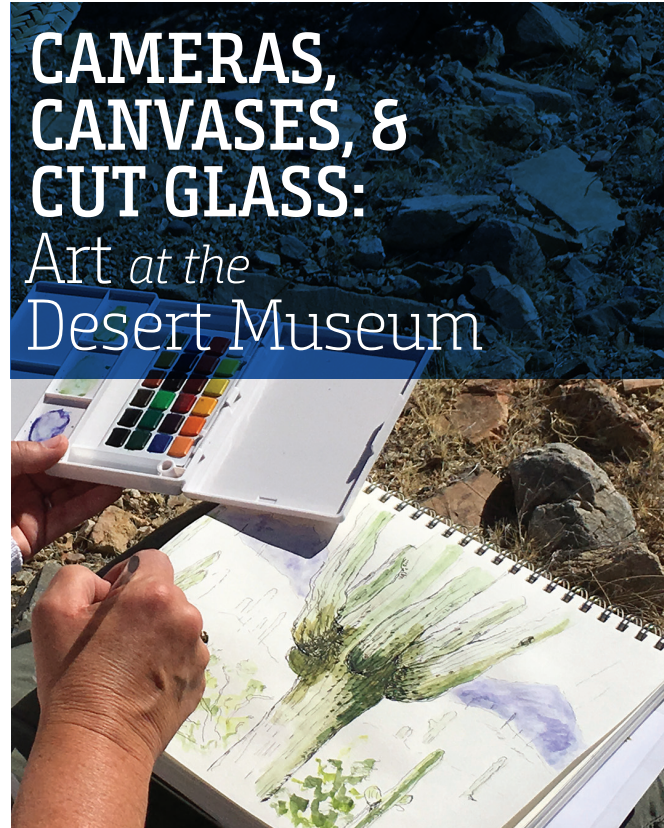
Beyond depicting nature's beauty, art also reflects the complex relationship between humans and the natural world. Throughout history, artists have captured the impact of human activities on the environment, often serving as a call for societal awareness and change. Through their creations, they encourage viewers to contemplate their own roles and responsibilities in preserving and protecting nature.

Vanishing Circles is a collection of over 90 paintings, drawings, and bronze pieces acquired for the Desert Museum by the Michael and

Priscilla Baldwin Foundation. Each of the animals, plants, and habitats portrayed in the collection are either endangered, threatened, or otherwise compromised in the Sonoran Desert region. The Vanishing Circles collection serves to increase awareness of threats to the rich biodiversity of the Sonoran Desert. Conservation through Art Education is the driving force of the Art Institute, and this collection is the embodiment of the notion that viewing the desert through the lens of art magnifies our understanding of the interconnectedness of the natural world.

The relationship between art and science is not one of mere coincidence but rather a deep-rooted connection fueled by curiosity, observation, and the human desire to understand the world. As art continues to inspire scientific inquiry and science shapes artistic expression, the boundaries between these disciplines blur, fostering creative, interdisciplinary endeavors. Whether through visual arts, written arts, music, or performance, art has the power to elevate our understanding and appreciation of nature and inspire us to protect and conserve it for future generations.

“Nature artists aspire to recreate the intricate patterns, vibrant colors, and delicate balance found in the natural world, providing viewers with a glimpse into its captivating wonders.”



CAMERAS, CANVASES, & CUT GLASS: Art at the Desert Museum



At the Art Institute, our unique focus on nature art and the Sonoran Desert promotes respect and support for conservation.

Art is a creative and expressive form of communication, and the Art Institute's classes cultivate skills that extend beyond mere creativity, fostering personal development, cognitive abilities, and emotional well-being.

Nature journaling illustrates the mission of the Art Institute, which is Conservation through Art Education. The grounds of the Desert Museum become the ideal classroom for this endeavor. Nature journaling requires being present in the moment and paying attention to the details of the natural world. It encourages individuals to slow down, observe, and appreciate their surroundings, nurturing a sense of mindfulness and connection with nature. By actively recording observations of plants, animals, and natural phenomena, people develop a sharper eye for the details and patterns in nature.

While journaling, or just walking around the Desert Museum grounds, you will find a variety of artistic expressions. Biodiversity rich murals envelop Stingray Touch and Packrat Playhouse, animal sculptures are notably nestled amongst

Life on the Rocks, and over thirty poetry installations invite guests to reflect on what they are reading in context with what they are seeing. Additionally, we have a brand-new piece highlighting pollinators: "More Bees Please" by Alex Heveri. This sculpture is an arched interpretation of a beehive, featuring hand cut Dalle de Verre glass hexagons individually set into a hexagonal welded steel framework. This larger-than-life piece calls you to walk under it and through it, encouraging you to experience it from many different perspectives and compels you to think about the world of bees and light in new and exciting ways.

People have long found inspiration in the natural world, capturing its beauty, essence, and complexity in various artistic forms. The Desert Museum has been an endless source of wonder for creative minds, influencing art across different mediums and genres. Every day we see artists venturing on the grounds to observe the interplay of light, color, and texture, translating them onto their canvases and their cameras.

The connection between nature and art is profound and multifaceted. From the spiritual to the creative to the scientific, all are intertwined in the human experience, offering solace, inspiration, and a deeper understanding of ourselves and the world around us. By immersing ourselves in nature and embracing the power of art, we can forge a deeper connection with our place in the natural world.



ART TO ENCOUNTER ON GROUNDS

- Photography
- Poetry
- Murals
- Music
- Sculpture

Guests are inspired as painters, poets, photographers and more!

ARTISTS ON STAFF

The Sonoran Desert serves as the inspiration for many staff members who are also authors, chefs, photographers, poets, welders, painters, sculptors, fiber artists, musicians, performers and more!



Take a class! Take a trip!

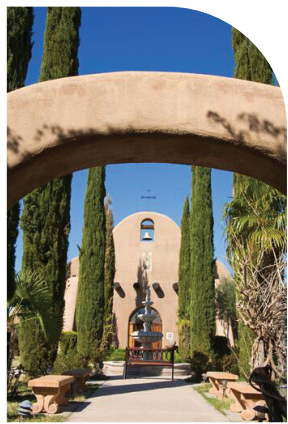
Adult Classes & Trips with the Desert Museum!

For more details and to register for classes and trips: 520-883-3025 or desertmuseum.org/adultclasses.



RANCHO DE LA OSA DECEMBER 1 - 3, 2023

Spend two days at Arizona's most historic ranch! It rests in the desert grasslands along the southern border with the dramatic backdrop of Baboquivari Peak. **\$930**



MAMMOTHS OF THE SAN PEDRO VALLEY

FEBRUARY 23, 2024

Visit a mammoth kill site and learn about the Clovis Culture, see fossils of the megafauna that roamed Arizona 10,000 years ago, and practice throwing an atlatl. Picnic at the St. David Monastery then end the day collecting gypsum crystals. **\$85**



NORTHERN SPAIN VIA THE SLOW TRAIN

SEPTEMBER 2024

Verdant rolling hills, cliffy coastlines, trout streams, and seaside fishing villages are all part of the unexpected landscape of Asturias, Cantabria and the Basque country. We take the slow train stopping at inland hamlets to explore Paleolithic cave paintings, Iron Age ruins, cider houses, and the Camino de Santiago. Then as a counterpoint to the old, we'll visit Bilbao's Guggenheim Museum of modern art, and the architecture of Barcelona's Gaudi. **\$TBA**



SANDHILL CRANES, RAPTORS, AND WATERFOWL

FEBRUARY 8, 2024

Thousands of Sandhill Cranes migrate from as far away as Alaska to spend the winter in the agricultural fields near Willcox, one of our region's birding hot spots. **\$90**



HEIRLOOM FRUIT TREE WORKSHOP

FEBRUARY 15, 2024

Jesús García, founder of the Kino Heritage Fruit Trees Project, will teach techniques for propagation, pruning, grafting, and care of fruit trees. Participants will take home cuttings, as well as have a tour of the Mission Garden. **\$60**



BAJA PENINSULA NORTH TO SOUTH

APRIL 4 - 16, 2024

Motorcoach down the entire length of the Baja. From the desert chaparral, through fertile coastal habitat we cross the rocky backbone of the peninsula into the bizarre Vizcaíño desert with its forests of boojum and cardón. We get off the grid for a "glamping" experience where personal gray whale encounters await! Our drive takes us through lush date palm oases and the Tres Virgenes volcanic field, then along the coast passing aquamarine coves and gorgeous white sand beaches. Dip into pristine waters to snorkel with marine life in Loreto Bay. **\$4720.**

Activity for Kids!

Start A Nature Journal

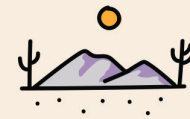
Nature journaling is a super fun way to explore nature and record all the wonderful things you discover. Grab a pencil and a small notebook. Let's get started!

1.

Step 1: Go outside to your favorite spot.

Examples: your yard, a park, a school, the Desert Museum

Write down where you are and why you like it. Draw a simple sketch of your favorite place.



2.

Step 2: Draw what you like to bring with you when exploring nature.

Examples: a snack, water, a notebook

Write down what you brought. Draw a simple sketch of your stuff.



3.

Step 3: Draw what you see.

Examples: birds, bugs, plants, clouds

Write down what you saw. Draw a simple sketch of your favorite sights. Hint: it's really fun to add color to your pictures!



4.

Step 4: Draw what you hear.

Examples: birds, bugs, wind, traffic

Write down what you heard and think about what it might look like. Draw a simple sketch of your sounds.



5.

Step 5: Add any details you want to remember. Then, sign and date your nature notes!



Share your art!

Tag #desertmuseum on social media or email a picture to: education@desertmuseum.org

DONOR RECOGNITION

April 6, 2023 – September 6, 2023

ARIZONA-SONORA
DESERT
MUSEUM

MAJOR DONORS +\$10,000

Anonymous (4)
Biosphere 2
Bureau of Land Management - Phoenix
Lee Compton
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Evelyn Harrison
Phyllis Hoeft
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Estate of Peter Sheldon
National Park Service - Saguaro National Park
Priscilla & Michael Baldwin Foundation
The Fred & Christine Armstrong Foundation
The Institute of Museum and Library Services
Tucson Electric Power Company

IN HONOR OF

In honor of Edgar Almazan
Julia Luchsinger

In honor of Dianne Axthelm
Jeanette and Marvin Manly

In honor of Manek Bhappu
Jinny Tata

In honor of Deborah Brown-Ridley
J R Andersen

In honor of Lorraine Callahan
Dr. Fred Wampler

In honor of Mary Lou Cole
Marilyn Portman

In honor of James Jarchow
Cynthia Wicker

In honor of Autumn Joiner
Bran Joiner

In honor of Docent Ginny K.
Jennifer Andersen

In honor of Brenda King
Anonymous

In honor of Natalie Krumdieck
Lee Lemieux

In honor of Ann Latner
Mark Underwood

In honor of Deborah Oseran & Bobby Present
Johanna Shlomovich

In honor of William Panczner
Maura Dickler

In honor of Louise Pate
Francesca Morgan

In honor of Peter Foschi
William Foschi

In honor of Aphra the Pink Toe
Macabre Makery

In honor of Kenneth Poppino
Lori Poppino

In honor of Stéphane Poulin
Anonymous

In honor of Mary Richmond
Dana Kraft

In honor of Alice & Bill Roe
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In honor of Judy Shaw
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Steve Sinclair

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Nancy Smith

In honor of Char & Tom Strub
Jeri McGee

In honor of Gary Swartwout
Jane and Skip Keller
Karen and Robert Kern

In honor of Kris Underwood
Mark Underwood

In honor of Frederick Von Huber
Anthony Merola

In honor of Stephen Wampler
Dr. Fred Wampler

In honor of Barbara Whitaker
Laura Zeimet

IN MEMORY OF
In memory of Dianne Axthelm
Larry Axthelm
Wayne and Maxine Starkey

In memory of Patricia Barry

Theresa Barry

In memory of David Baumgartner
Carol and Allan Schmig
Lea Kennedy
Dorothy L. Anderson

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In memory of Anne Blake

Christine Harkin

In memory of Matt Blake

Christine Harkin

In memory of Robert Blake

Christine Harkin

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In memory of Jill Hadley

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Jerry and Debra Spaeth

In memory of Nina Huete

Elizabeth Emhoff

In memory of Megan Jacoby

Scov Table Tennis Club

In memory of Heinz Kagerer

Margit Kagerer

In memory of Abraham Lackow

Norma Lackow

In memory of Travis Mayhall

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In memory of Lewis Miller

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In memory of Dave Nott

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Marie Swanson

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In memory of Nikki Valdez

Beth Hahn

In memory of Kathleen Woodard

Beverly and Dan Goodwin

In memory of Lauray Yule

Anna Domitrovic

ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

ROCKIN' MINERALS

BALDWIN BUILDING & GROUNDS

January 13-14, 2024

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Dig into the rockin' world of minerals with fun hands-on activities for families. Shop for your own mineral and fossil treasures at rock-bottom prices! Thousands of mineral specimens for sale for the novice to the serious collector. The sale showcases Arizona, New Mexico, and Mexico minerals with a selection of minerals and fossils from around the world.

You can find specimens for as little as 50 cents!

You can also visit geology and fossil activity stations around the Museum grounds (no reservation required!) where kids can collect free rocks, minerals and fossils in their own egg-carton collection box.



Ways to give.

With the end of the calendar year approaching, we urge you to remember the Desert Museum in your charitable giving plans. As a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization since 1954, we depend on your support to help continue our mission.

There are so many ways to give! You can volunteer your time or talents, renew your membership, or share information about our work on social media. If you are looking to donate your IRA's Required Minimum Distribution to charity, are considering gifting appreciated securities, or making your estate plans, please remember the Desert Museum. And always make sure to talk to your financial advisor to learn about the potential tax benefits of charitable giving!

We sincerely appreciate all the ways you support the Museum - thank you for a wonderful year. Donate online today with the click of a button at desertmuseum.org/donate! For more information contact philanthropy@desertmuseum.org.

DESERT MUSEUM WINTER HOURS!



October - May
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

DESERT MUSEUM ARTS UPDATE

www.desertmuseumarts.com

ARIZONA-SONORA
DESERT
MUSEUM

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DESERT MUSEUM

The mission of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is to inspire people to live in harmony with the natural world by fostering love, appreciation, and understanding of the Sonoran Desert.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF SCRATCHBOARD ARTISTS 12TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

Ironwood Gallery
October 14 - December 10, 2023
Daily 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The 12th annual International Society of Scratchboard Artists (ISSA) exhibition is an international art competition dedicated to showcasing the fine art of scratchboard. The goals of the competition are to provide members of ISSA the opportunity to exhibit their work with other scratchboard artists and provide the public with a unique opportunity to witness the incredible skill and artistry involved in mastering this intricate medium.

12TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF
**SCRATCHBOARD
ARTISTS**

HARVEY TELONG
CATHY SHEETZ

ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM, OCTOBER 14 - DECEMBER 10, 2023



WINTER CLASSES START IN JANUARY!

Enjoy the surroundings of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum while working on an art project. We offer individual classes as well as a certificate of completion program in nature art. The unique backdrop of the Museum becomes your classroom, while you have the option of drawing birds, mammals, insects and desert botanicals. You can also participate in a wide variety of classes and workshops including oil painting, nature journaling, mixed media and photography. *Join us!*

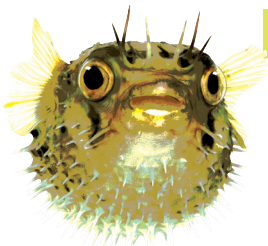
ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM
**ART & PHOTOGRAPHY
CLASSES**

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER & DECEMBER CLASS SCHEDULE

ARIZONA-SONORA
DESERT MUSEUM
**ART
INSTITUTE**
NATURE THROUGH ART

FALL 2023

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2021 N. Kinney Rd., Tucson, AZ 85743 U.S.A. (520) 883-2500
The Art Institute is a Program of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum



FALL 2023 STUDENT ART SHOW

Baldwin Art Gallery
October 14 - December 10, 2023
Daily 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The bi-annual student exhibition is a show of works created by our very talented Art Institute students. Each piece chosen was created within the last two years and a large variety of mediums represented. *In some way, each piece reflects our mission: Conservation Through Art Education.*



Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
2021 N Kinney Rd., Tucson, AZ 85743-9719
Phone (520) 883-2702 · Fax (520) 883-2500
www.desertmuseum.org

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Editor: Catherine Bartlett
Design & Layout: Nancy Serensky

The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is located on the ancestral lands of the Tohono O'odham (Desert People).