



ARIZONA-SONORA
DESERT
MUSEUM

NEWS

DESERT MUSEUM NEWS > SPRING 2020
A newsletter for friends of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

CREATIVE CONSERVATION: Art at the Desert Museum

As a supporter of the Desert Museum, you have probably fed the stingrays, hiked the Desert Loop Trail, and maybe even climbed through Packrat Playhouse. But did you know that the Museum is also home to not only an art gallery, but an Art Institute?

It's true—hundreds of modern day masters have perfected their craft right here at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum.

Art History

The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Art Institute was founded with the goal of promoting conservation through art education. 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 1998, through her dedication and hard work, the ASDM Art Institute was born. Michael and Priscilla Baldwin continue to support the success of the institute through the Baldwin Foundation.

Calling All Creators

Creators of all experience levels are welcome to take Art Institute courses, which cover a variety of mediums including colored pencil, watercolor, scratchboard, and just about every technique

in between. The Institute even caters to digital artists, offering courses in Photo-shop Elements, DSLR photography, and website design.

Students have the opportunity to improve their craft under the instruction of internationally recognized, award-winning artists, many with works exhibited in major shows,

Nature Art Certificate recipient Laura Le-Pere and the six week workshop “The Artist’s Way- A Creativity Unblocking Circle” with student Ursula Schneider.

Immersed in Inspiration

Those who have never visited the Sonoran Desert might wonder how students could possibly find enough inspiration to produce

stay in a guesthouse on museum grounds to enrich her own practice and provide workshops for Art Institute Students. Susan will be visiting from the Okanagan Valley in British Columbia. In addition to being a talented painter and mixed media artist, she is an educator with a background in teaching fine arts.

The newest addition to the Desert Museum’s Art Institute—Expanded classrooms allow for even more art instruction & course offerings!



collections, and publications. One can choose from classes held on weekdays—most of which meet once weekly for five consecutive weeks—or weekends, during which the entire curriculum is covered in just three days. Varied schedules are popular with students enrolled in the Nature Art Certificate Program. These committed students work to develop and hone an assortment of techniques while completing 13 courses, plus attending an additional 100 hours of elective classes. Weekend workshops provide an opportunity for our students to learn from master artists from across the country.

The Art Institute is now coming full circle and tapping into the creativity, innovation, and artistic talent of the students in the new “Student Showcase” classes where students become the teacher. Two of these upcoming courses are “A little Relief: Mixed Media with Polymer Clay” led by

artwork for such an intensive program. But those familiar with the Museum know of the extraordinary natural beauty and diversity of the region including the more than 240 animal species and over 1,200 taxa of plants that call the 98-acre grounds home, lending artists an almost endless supply of subjects.

To take full advantage of this incredible diversity along with the excellent Museum facilities, the Art Institute recently announced Susan Neilson as the first recipient of a new bi-annual Artist in Residence program. Artists apply for this unique opportunity through a comprehensive submission process and must belong to either Artists for Conservation, or the Society of Wildlife Artists. These organizations, according to Desert Museum Art Institute Program Manager, Marie McGhee, “set the bar” in the world of nature art. The Artist in residence will have a one-month

Desert on Display

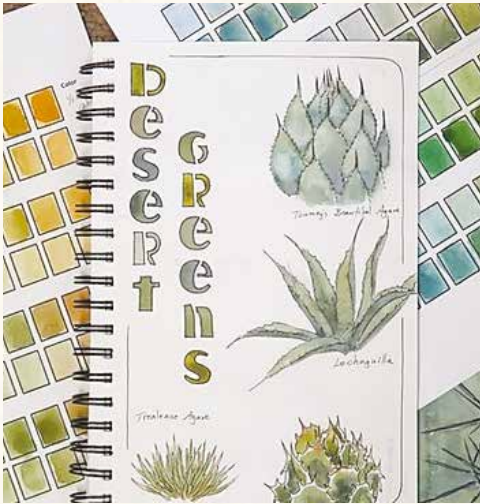
In addition to the Art Institute, the Museum houses two onsite galleries—the Baldwin Gallery, named for the Institute’s founders (Priscilla and Michael Baldwin), and the Ironwood Gallery, named for the picturesque native tree. The hundreds of thousands of guests who visit the Museum each year can find the Institute and galleries nestled between the Hummingbird Aviary and the Ironwood Terraces Restaurant. The galleries host ever-changing collections giving visitors something new to experience with each visit. Best of all, access to both galleries is included with museum admission!

While hundreds of students have gained an appreciation for Sonoran Desert conservation through their studies at the Art Institute, their creations have helped inspire and educate exponentially more people. Those visiting the Museum between

March 14 and May 17 will have the opportunity to view the annual Spring Student Exhibition in the Baldwin Gallery. The exhibition includes work from students who have taken at least one course at the Art Institute in the last calendar year. Like the course catalog itself, the exhibit encompasses a variety of mediums, from watercolor to digital photography. Many

membership of more than 500 artists from 30 countries and many of them are represented in the exhibit, including some of the most recognized names in nature and wildlife art. AFC recently recognized the Art Institute's own Priscilla Baldwin with the Simon Combes Conservation Artist Award. The organization's highest honor, the award is given annually to artists who

com or call us at 520-883-3024. Those who might lack creative energy but still have an appreciation for all things art are welcome to visit the Baldwin Gallery, open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and the Ironwood Gallery, open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Sunday.



Immersed in Inspiration While each course offered covers a different medium or builds upon an earlier class's techniques, they all have at least one thing in common—the subject is always nature and the inhabitants and surroundings of the Desert Museum serve as the muse.

pieces are available for purchase, and spectators will have their chance to vote for the People's Choice winner.

Another exciting exhibit, called Vanishing Circles, will return to the Ironwood Gallery this spring, from April 4 to July 26. Containing more than 80 paintings by over 30 notable artists, the exhibit illustrates threatened or endangered species and ecosystems of the Sonoran Desert Region. This collection of original paintings travels to museums throughout North America, providing a glimpse at the beauty of the Sonoran Desert to those who might not otherwise visit Arizona or the Desert Museum.

The Ironwood Gallery recently hosted a juried exhibit from Artists for Conservation (AFC), a Canadian-based, international non-profit whose mission mirrors that of the Art Institute. AFC has a

exemplify the achievements of the award's namesake, an artist dedicated to the conservation of African wildlife. Congratulations to Mrs. Baldwin and continued thanks for her unwavering support of the Art Institute!

In the spirit of nurturing the next generation of master artists and environmental stewards, the Museum partnered with Pima county schools and will host "Desert Landscapes," an art competition for students in kindergarten through grade 6, inviting the students to submit their artistic interpretation of the landscapes, plants and animals of the Sonoran Desert.

Let the Museum Be Your Muse

If learning about the Art Institute has sparked your interest in creating nature-based art, you are in luck—new classes begin in early April. To learn more and to register online visit: DesertMuseumArts.com

bring the
Sonoran Desert
into your art!

DESERT MUSEUM'S ART INSTITUTE

Workshops & Classes
for adults

CONSERVATION
through ART EDUCATION



PLEASE JOIN US
FOR THE
ARIZONA-SONORA
DESERT MUSEUM'S
SIGNATURE EVENT.
THE DESERT GALA.

27th annual
DESERT GALA
2020 VISION
FOCUS ON THE FUTURE



The 27th annual gala, will offer local culinary delicacies, craft libations, up-close visits with some of our famous animal residents, and a night to remember. Browse the wide array of silent auction items, bid on premium live auction items and experiences, and enjoy some exciting raffle opportunities!

THE THEME

THIS YEAR'S DESERT GALA IS "2020 VISION: FOCUS ON THE FUTURE." Join us in celebrating the beginning of a new decade and our focus on the future of the Sonoran Desert, its extraordinary plant and animal life, and inspiring a new generation of conservation leaders. Learn more about the Desert Museum's vision for the future and how you can help ensure that the future is bright.

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

\$250 each (\$225 for early birds until March 15th). Seating for this popular event is limited to 550 guests, and is usually reached long before the deadline for reservations. Any reservations received after we reach 550 guests will be placed on a waiting list.



TABLE AMBASSADORSHIP | SPONSORSHIP | UNDERWRITING OPPORTUNITIES

Offers you and your business, recognition for your support of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and those we serve. Be a table ambassador, sponsor, or underwriter and connect deeply to the Museum's mission and to other supporters in the community. This is a wonderful chance to partake in a fantastic event while entertaining clients, employees, family, and friends!



EVENT INFORMATION

For more event information, or to make your reservation today please visit: www.desertmuseum/gala.

To reserve your place as table ambassador, sponsor or have questions—contact: Lynnae Wenker, Philanthropy Manager at 520-883-3005.

For the latest news about the event, be sure to follow our Gala Facebook page: www.facebook.com/desertmuseum/gala.



DESERTMUSEUM
CLASSES
and
TRIPS adult



Registration Information: call (520) 883-3025 or log onto desertmuseum.org/adultclasses. Prices are 10% more for non-members.

CLASSES

Pine Needle Baskets

April 18

Create unique baskets using coils of pine needles attached to a ceramic or wooden base. Several different stitches and decorative finishing touches will be taught. **\$70**

Sonoran Desert Spa Day

May 16

As a Mother's Day treat, spend the morning luxuriating with a facial mask made from desert aromatics in our secluded guesthouse. We will be led on a botanical walk, learn to make nourishing serums, and relax! **\$120**

Saguaro Fruit Harvest

June 19 or 20

Spend the morning gathering and preparing fruit in the traditional O'odham manner, using a harvesting pole made from the ribs of the giant cactus, and explore the cultural and ecological significance of the saguaro. Includes lunch. **\$70**

Prickly Pear Harvest

August 16 or 22

August is the season that the beautiful red fruit of the prickly pear cactus ripens. This plant is ubiquitous and edible! Learn how to collect and process the fruit, as well as how it can be used in different dishes. You will also prepare the tender green pad for "nopalitos". Includes lunch. **\$65**

Natural History of the

Sonoran Desert

October 24 and 25

This two-day survey course covers desert ecology, climate, mammals, birds, reptiles, botany and geology. We will take a plant hike, get a behind-the-scenes tour through the herpetology building, and maybe even be treated to a personal Raptor Free Flight experience! **\$140**

TRIPS



California Missions & Wines

September 14 - 20, 2020

The legacy of the Franciscan friars lies in the place names, vineyards and architecture of the Golden State. Take in California's coastline and oak-studded inland hill country as we spend the week visiting six of the missions established along Alta California's Camino Real. Our route takes in Santa Barbara, Santa Inés, La Purisima, San Luis Obispo, San Miguel and San Antonio. Two nights are slept in the friary of Mission San Antonio, isolated by a surrounding military preserve, and appears much as it did during the missionary period. Then there is wine, a pleasant necessity introduced to the region by the Catholic priests. We sample local wines as well as olive oils. The last two days follow the coastline south of Big Sur past Morro Bay. Optional train travel Tucson/Santa Barbara will be offered. **\$1,890**

Río Sonora Heritage Tour

October 27 - 29

This agrarian region is still very much as it was a hundred years ago, with farmers, ranchers and mission communities thriving in the fertile Río Sonora Valley. Spend three adventurous days visiting small towns where mission culture mingles with indigenous identity. Enjoy local cuisine and passing quality time with wonderful people that share gracious hospitality. **\$920**

Pre-history of Northern Mexico

December 9 - 11

Northern Sonora Mexico encompasses many prehistoric sites, including Trincheras, created by an ancient culture that lived on volcanic hills. Spend the day exploring excavation sites filled with artifacts. Then, in the Pueblo Magico of Magdalena, learn about the native Tohono O'odham. Monument Square, the heart of the town, houses the crypt of Father Kino who founded many missions in the Pimería Alta. **\$895**



Black Lava and White Sand

November 16 - 19

The volcanic landscape of the Pinacates includes huge maar craters, two varieties of lava flows, cinder cones, and majestic shifting dunes hosting their own specialized ecosystems. This young volcanic field is adjacent to the Sea of Cortez which, because of extreme low tides, allows viewing of its marvelous intertidal marine life. For a special cultural experience, we visit the Sonoran Tohono O'odham village of Quitovac, an oasis along the ancient salt pilgrimage trail to the sea. **\$1150**



**ART EXHIBIT:
International Exhibit
of Nature in Art
Thru March 29, 2020
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Ironwood Gallery**

Artists for Conservation's annual juried exhibit is the world's top conservation-themed art show and highlights the artwork of select Signature members of the group. The goal of the exhibit is to support conservation through art sales and education; a portion of the sales of will support the conservation organization of the artists' choice. To showcase the extraordinary pool of artistic talent within AFC; and to share the nature-inspired art genre with new audiences across the world. This juried show features sculptures as well as paintings by many well-known artists, including several of our own ASDM Art Institute instructors and students.

PLEASE NOTE:

Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Ironwood Gallery (open daily); Baldwin Gallery (Monday through Friday). Learn more at www.DesertMuseumArts.com. Please call (520) 883-3024 to check hours due to occasional special events.



**PACKRAT PARTY!
Saturday, April 11, 2020
10:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.**

Packrat Playhouse is having a birthday party and you're invited! Join us for the two year anniversary of our newest exhibit! Packrat Playhouse is open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be popup games offered throughout the day as well as packrat tattoos and keychains. Enjoy treats, giveaways, and have your face painted like a packrat! Save money! *All kids who dress up like an animal, plant, or mineral receive \$5 admission!*

*Event is free with Museum admission.
The first eight kids in line at Packrat Playhouse at 10:00 a.m. get their very own packrat puppet!*

Packrat Party VIP Experience

Want your own exclusive experience at Packrat Party? Sign up to be a VIP! Enjoy one hour of unique playtime, meet a live animal, dance to live music, and munch on a yummy treat! Only \$15! Limited spots available. Visit our website: desertmuseum.org for more information, and to sign up!

**SUMMER CAMPS
Museum Explorers Camps:
Play, Create, Discover
Playful Packrats**

**Entering grades 1-2
Animal Artists**

**Entering grades 3-4
Sonoran Scientists**

Entering grades 5-6

Session 1: June 1-5, 2020

Session 2: June 8-12, 2020

To the Desert and Beyond! Our hands-on, minds-on camps will open your eyes to the wonders of the Sonoran Desert Land and Sea. Campers will explore every nook and cranny of the Museum as they use science

to make their own desert discoveries, observe live animals up close, create art, hike in the desert and go behind the scenes with animal keepers.

\$225 Non-members, \$200 Members

**Colors of the Desert: Studio Lab
Entering Grades 7-8
July 13-17, 2020**

Explore the colors of nature through art and science! Learn about why flowers have the colors they do, how bees see, and make original art using chemistry and optics. This camp is a combination art studio and science lab, where microscopes and paintbrushes work side by side as we investigate and create a colorful world. See website for scholarship application.

\$250 Non-members, \$225 Members

**Laurel Clark Earth Camp
Ages 13-15
June 22-26, 2020**

Not all science happens in a laboratory. This summer spend some time in the great outdoors exploring what it might be like to become a botanist, zoologist or geologist. This camp includes two overnight camp outs and time at the Museum, in the desert, at a lake, on a mountain top and underwater (in a pool as we learn to scuba dive). Hands-on field research will allow students a real world experience in learning about the natural world and developing a passion to preserve and protect it. See website for scholarship application.

\$375 Non-members; \$345 Members

**Find out more:
www.desertmuseum.org/kids/camp**



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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.

Do you know a preschooler who would love to play like a packrat? Join us for a private learning and active play session before the Playhouse opens to everyone else! Get to know the desert and its animals through art, science, music, and stories. Each program includes developmentally appropriate activities, a craft project, and a live animal encounter.

Age: 2-6 Years Old (At least one adult chaperone is required and is included in the program price.)

Price: \$10 Members; \$12 Non-Members

When: Every 1st Friday of the month; 9 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Register online: www.desertmuseum.org/packratplayhouse

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DID YOU KNOW?



Ever had the pleasure of seeing one of these snakes on grounds? If so, did you notice that their rattle seemed to have a little extra flair?

This specific snake is named "Howie" after the curator of our Herpetology, Ichthyology, and Invertebrate Zoology team. He was first seen here at the Desert Museum on May 3, 2014 and he has been seen all over grounds.

Occasionally rattlesnakes are found on grounds and a call is made to our HIIZ team or our Security team. Whoever is closest responds and assesses the situation. We practice 'minimal interference' with all of the wild reptiles here on grounds and many times rattlesnakes are allowed to carry on their way so we do not interfere with their natural movement. Sometimes, if a rattlesnake is in an area of concern (we always look out for our visitor AND snake safety), the staff will collect the rattlesnake.

If the snake is collected, it is brought back to our HIIZ building where staff (who are highly trained in snake manipulation) will scan for a pit (passive integrated transponder) tag which tells them the individual they are working with. The color code painted on the rattle also helps inform the staff of the ID of that snake. The Desert Museum has an over 29 year old database with information on snakes collected on grounds and data from each snake is entered into this. HIIZ staff will take the snakes weight, check the general health (if the snake has a cactus spine or external parasite it will be removed), and then release the rattlesnake within 300 yards of where it was collected. Rattlesnakes have a home range so this allows them to stay in the place they are familiar with.

