

HIGH DESERT MUSEUM

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***Art in the West* Exhibition Brings Work of Renowned Artists to the High Desert Museum**

BEND, OR — The High Desert Museum will unveil an extraordinary collection of traditional and contemporary art on Friday, July 19 in its annual *Art in the West* exhibition and silent auction, a celebration of creative expression about the High Desert. This year's juried exhibition features works by 49 artists.

"Every year we look forward to unveiling a stellar collection of work by an array of talented artists," said Museum Executive Director Dana Whitelaw, Ph.D. "Their interpretations of the West, from cultures to landscapes, always open our eyes to something new and broaden our love of this region."

The exhibition opens on Friday, July 19 with a reception at the Museum from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. The free event offers the public a first viewing of the exhibition as well as the chance to mingle with some of the artists. Silent bidding will begin that evening, and there is also the opportunity to purchase artwork outright. The bidding culminates on Saturday, August 24 at the 30th annual High Desert Rendezvous, the Museum's signature fundraising gala.

The artwork selected for the exhibition is as varied as the artists themselves. The exhibit features sculptures, paintings and photography expressing the artists' responses to the landscapes, history, cultures and wildlife of the High Desert in mediums ranging from oil to acrylic to mixed media.

This year's Curator's Choice Award was presented to Analee Fuentes for her piece *Hosmer Brook Trout*. Fuentes was raised in the Southwest and has called Oregon home since 1982. Her Mexican-American heritage instilled in her an appreciation of the bright colors and rich patterning that is the lens through which she views Oregon's natural beauty, and she studies native fish at length to create her large-scale works.

The Jury's Choice Award went to Sarah B. Hansen for her piece *To Be Free*. Hansen is a Bend artist who paints a wide array of subjects as she explores the contrast between control and spontaneity. She hopes her work inspires preservation of wild spaces.

Several artists will offer art demonstrations during the reception this year, including oil painter Janice Druian, Bend artist Judy Hoiness and the winner of last year's Jury's Choice Award, Hadley Rampton.

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Opening bids for the art range from \$100 to \$5,000. In addition to at the reception, bids for the artwork will be accepted throughout the exhibition's duration in the Museum's store, Silver Sage Trading, or by phone at 541-382-4754, ext. 365 until 2:00 pm on Saturday, August 24. Final bidding will occur that evening at the High Desert Rendezvous.

Proceeds from the *Art in the West* auction help support the Museum's educational programs, bringing science, art and history education to lifelong learners throughout the region.

A link to the gallery guide of the exhibit artwork is available on the Museum's website at highdesertmuseum.org/art-in-the-west. Hard copies of the guide are available upon request by calling 541-382-4754, ext. 365. To RSVP for the *Art in the West* reception on July 19, visit highdesertmuseum.org/art-in-the-west-opening.

Art in the West is presented by First Interstate Bank with support from Visit Central Oregon.

Learn more about and register for the High Desert Rendezvous at highdesertmuseum.org/hdr.

ABOUT THE MUSEUM:

THE HIGH DESERT MUSEUM opened in 1982 and brings regional wildlife, culture, art and natural resources together to promote an understanding of the natural and cultural heritage of North America's High Desert country. The Museum uses indoor and outdoor exhibits, wildlife in natural habitats, and living history demonstrations to help people discover and appreciate the High Desert. The Museum is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and is a Smithsonian Affiliate. highdesertmuseum.org

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