

# Pastel Talk



Arizona Pastel Artists Association P.O. Box 10042, Phoenix, AZ 85064 [www.azpaa.com](http://www.azpaa.com)

AUGUST 2009

## Fountain Hills Show Just Around the Corner

Show Update: As you know the Fountain Hills Exhibit is on the calendar for the month of September. We encourage everyone to participate. This is a great opportunity for new members to get involved and for APAA to network with the Fine Arts Community in the area.

Drop off date is **Tuesday, September 1st**, between 10:00 am and 11:00 am at the Fountain Hills Community Center, 13001 N. Montana Drive.

The entry fee is \$20 for 4 paintings (checks made out to APAA). Holds harmless agreement forms and APAA labels will be emailed to you. Both should be filled out in advance. Labels should be securely taped to the back of the painting (top center). Paintings should be properly framed with paper backing and mats cut clean without spots or stains.

Upon arriving at the center you will need to fill out an artist/agent agreement form and labels to be placed on the wall next to your painting.

See you there! *Laura Black*

## *A Plein Air Workshop with Richard McKinley in France*

By Karen Budan

On June 25th I boarded a plane headed for France for a 12 day plein air workshop with Richard McKinley. I have been working with Richard now for about a year with my first workshop being in Italy last May. In addition to my anticipation to continue my work with Richard, it goes without saying that I was excited about seeing the lavender blooming in the Lot Valley of France!

Richard's workshops typically fill before or soon after being announced, but with the economy we have been experiencing this workshop did not fill. There were 8 artists which meant each of us received a lot of one on one attention from Richard. It also meant we got to know each other well. Two of my fellow artists were artists who also went to Italy last year, Janice from Minnesota and

*continued page 8*

### Next Meeting: September 6, 3pm

Primer on Everything Digital: Learn how to take pictures of your artwork and size your digital images. Photoshop tips too!

Remember to bring your paintings for our first Artist of the Month competition!

### WELCOME New Members!

Our group continues to grow in skill depth and membership:

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# Message From the President

Dear Fellow APAA Members,

I hope this letter finds you enjoying the summer whether you are here in the valley or in other parts of the country or world. If you are here in the Valley of the Sun, this is certainly the time of the year that lends itself to studio painting with the cooler than normal June moving into a very "hot" July! Plein air painting is definitely an early morning activity this time of the year in the valley.



We are continuing to explore different options for meeting rooms due to our continued growth as an organization. As of this point nothing has been determined and you should plan to attend our next meeting in September at the Paradise Valley Hospital location. However, please watch your e-mail and the summer newsletters for a possible location change if a new location is in place prior to the September meeting.

I would like to encourage you to visit our web site at [www.azpaa.com](http://www.azpaa.com) for all the new components that Julia Patterson has been adding such as the calendar and the video clips pages. I am hoping that you will also join the AZPAA group on Facebook. This is not only an opportunity for communication among members but also a way to get your name and artwork out on the web. You never know where such exposure may lead.

Keep cool and keep painting!!!

*Karen Budan*

President, APAA

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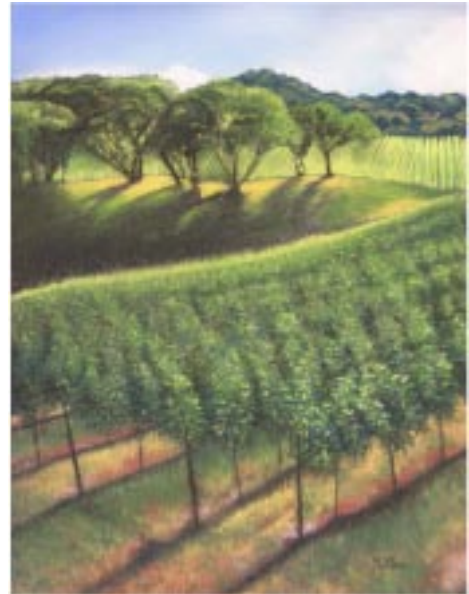
## Cave Creek Film & Arts Festival

Ronda Millea participated in the Cave Creek Film and Arts Festival show, and provides this update:

This was the festival's fourth year and applications had increased tremendously. According to Marty Gibson, 35 entries to the Visual Arts division were accepted, with pastelists having good presence. Karen Budan, Laura Black, Julia Patterson, and I had paintings juried in, and Julia and I were fortunate enough to be named semifinalists. The show also had a large showing of beautiful photography. If you were unable to go, but have a chance at a later date, I think you might enjoy it.



"Autumn in Colorado", Laura Black



"Sunlit Vineyard" by Ronda Millea

Ronda Millea

*The exhibition is showing at the Desert Foothills Library in Cave Creek through July 31.*



# Arizona Art Supply

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## Member Accomplishments

### Christine Debrosky

At the IAPS (International Assn. Pastel Societies) juried exhibition, Christine Debrosky won the silver award. The event was held at Ventana Galleries, in Santa Fe, NM.

She had a pastel selected for the upcoming Pastel Society of the West Coast national exhibit, "Pastels USA, 2009" at the Triton Museum of Art, Santa Clara, CA.

This past spring, she won 1st place, pastel in the Sedona Art Center member's annual juried show.

Also, her painting "November Blush" was selected for inclusion in the Richeson Pastels 75 exhibition, held in Wisconsin.

Currently, she is in a group show "Summer Solstice" at Fountainside Fine Art, Wilmington, NC.

Her biography will be included in the upcoming 30th (2010) anniversary edition of *Marquis Who's Who in American Art*. This will mark the eighth edition in which she has taken part.

**Donna Stenger** will offer a pastel class and a mat cutting workshops at the Phoenix Center for the Arts and the Shemer Art Center and Museum Registration for classes is open from Sat. August 1st to September 7th. Classes can be viewed at [www.phoenix.gov/phxctr.html](http://www.phoenix.gov/phxctr.html) or [www.phoenix.gov/shemer.html](http://www.phoenix.gov/shemer.html).

**Jean Hildebrant's** pastel painting, "Jessica", (Portrait of her daughter seated wearing her wedding gown) was accepted into the Richeson 75 Portrait/Figure competition. Her painting will be hung for awards judging in the Richeson Gallery in Kimberly, WI. The awards recep-



tion will be Aug. 7. The image of her painting will also be included in the online exhibit and the exhibit book.

Jean Hildebrant Fine Art  
[www.JeanHildebrant.com](http://www.JeanHildebrant.com)

## Join the APAA Facebook Group!

Time to join our APAA Group on Facebook. It is a fantastic communications and marketing tool, and besides that, it's fun!

It's essentially like our web site but it's interactive and may reach a different audience than our website. Your work will also be available to be seen by the 200 million people who are active on Facebook.

Click here to start: <http://groups.to/apaa/>. You will have to login to your account with Facebook first. (By the way, please put this link on your web sites!)

You will see pictures of the current members of the Group. On the right side column, you will see "Join This Group." Click it to become a member.

Use the handy dandy Discussion Board if you want to get other folks' reads on materials, pricing, etc. Or write on The Wall where your comments will be seen by all the members of the group. Then you can upload images of your work under the Photos section. PLEASE consider doing this. You can ask for advice and leave comments on others' work.

Come on - you know you want to!



# Call for Entries

*These listings are from Pastel Journal (www.pasteljournal.com). Please ensure that you obtain information to get more specific details on each opportunity. Also, we'd like to get more information on more local shows and competitions, so please send info on any opportunities you might know about.*

## ARKANSAS (LITTLE ROCK)

Arkansas Pastel Society, "Reflections in Pastel" National competition for soft Pastel. Dec4-Jan10. Doug Dawson, Juror. Deadline Sept. 5th, digital entries; awards \$5000. www.arkpastel.com email: hurstgallery@yahoo.com or SASE: Susan Hurst, #9 Roanne Ct., Little Rock, AR 72211

## GEORGIA (BLUE RIDGE)

Southern Appalachian Artist Guild 2009 National Juried Show, Oct 17- Nov 13, deadline July 31st, digital image/CD entry, Juror: Ann Templeton, Awards: \$5000, www.southernappalachianarts.org

## LOUISIANA (BATON ROUGE)

Louisiana Art and artists guild 40th Annual River Road Show, Dec 2-Jan 29, deadline Sept 14th, Artists 18+only, CD entry only, entries \$5 each/\$35/3 limit 10; Awards: \$4000, Juror: Don Andrews, www.laag-site.org/River\_Road\_Show\_09.html

## NEW HAMPSHIRE (PORTSMOUTH)

Pastel Society of New Hampshire National Juried Exhibition, Sept19-Oct19th, deadline July 27th, Soft Pastels only, Selection Juror: Liz Haywood Sullivan, PSA, Awards Juror: Bob Rohm, PSA, awards: \$5000, digital entries www.pastelsocietynh.com or SASE: Deidra Baldwin, 22 Emerson Rd. Durham, NH 03824

## NEW MEXICO (ALBUQUERQUE)

Pastel Society of New Mexico 18th Annual National Pastel Painting Exhibition, Nov 6-29th, deadline Aug15th, digital entries only, Judge: Colette Ody Smith, Jurors: Robert Carsten, Clark Mitchell and Jimmy Wright, Awards: \$10000, Original and soft pastels only www.pastelsnm.org or SASE: PSNM, PO Box 3571, Albuquerque, NM 87190-3571

## TEXAS (PLANO)

Pastel Society of the Southwest 28th Annual Juried Exhibition, November 09, deadline August 15th, awards: \$5000 Juror: Bob Rohm. #10 SASE: June Holloway, 7517 Vanessa Dr, Fort Worth, TX 76112 or www.pssw.info.

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# Art Opportunities

## HERBERGER SHOW

2010 Exhibitions: These focus on the “timeless connection between art and the human form.” The exhibitions seek to promote contemporary art by artists throughout Az.

Jan-Feb 2010: IDENTITY  
March-May 2010: EMPATHY

Postmark Oct 1, 2009; artists will be notified by Oct. 30, 2009

See website for details since there are quite a few: [www.herbergertheater.org](http://www.herbergertheater.org). Requires a list and digital images of artwork, a resume, \$20 and the application form

Work should be priced to consider 30% donation to the Herberger, and be priced between \$100 and \$3000. Note: This is a well sponsored show, and gets good traffic due to shows in the theater.

## THE PASTEL 100

Get rewarded for your finest work—enter the Pastel 100 Competition today. It’s your chance to

win CASH and PRIZES for your art! Sponsored by The Pastel Journal, America’s leading magazine devoted to pastel artists, and sister publication of The Artist’s Magazine, this annual competition offers cash, prizes and publicity to its lucky winners. All entries must be postmarked by September 1, 2009, so don’t wait to start creating! **CLICK HERE** for information: [https://competitions.fwmedia.com/dynamiccompetition/pastel100/entry\\_form](https://competitions.fwmedia.com/dynamiccompetition/pastel100/entry_form)

## UTRECHT 60TH ANNIVERSARY ART COMPETITION

Utrecht Art Supplies is proud to announce our 60th Anniversary Art Competition, in appreciation for the patronage of Artists over the past six decades. All Artists are invited to submit works created in Oil, Acrylic, Watercolor or Mixed Media\*. Winning entries will be judged on quality, creativity and originality. Editors of American Artist, Utrecht Resident Artist and Artists from the Ridgewood Art

Institute will serve as jurors.

**CLICK HERE** for rules: <http://contests.interweave.com/utrecht/rules.aspx>

## AZ PLEIN AIR PAINTERS COMPETITION

Artists are invited to Bisbee, Arizona on September 11 and 12 to paint the picturesque hillsides of Tombstone Canyon and the Mule Mountains of Southeastern Arizona. Network with Arizona’s many Plein Air painters, take advantage of a well-organized venue to sell your work, and enter to win \$2,000 in cash prizes!

The Bisbee Plein Air Painting Competition is open to any artist who paints using the plein air technique in oil, watercolor, acrylic, or pastel.

[www.centralschoolproject.org](http://www.centralschoolproject.org) or contact Melissa Holden at (520) 432-4866 or [melissa@centralschoolproject.org](mailto:melissa@centralschoolproject.org)



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480-941-8310 [www.briofinearts.com](http://www.briofinearts.com)



## What's Up @ the Phoenix Art Museum

by Paulette Redmond



**TONY FOSTER: Searching for a Bigger Subject**  
Orme Lewis Gallery, July 11–Oct 18

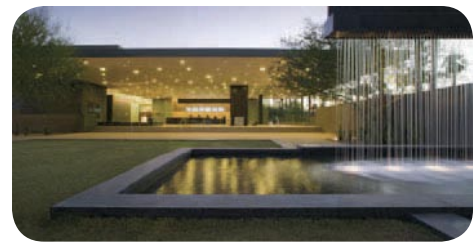
“Where This Artist Goes, Danger Often Follows”, *Wall Street Journal*

Traveling on foot, by raft or canoe, climbing mountains and weathering extreme climates, English artist Tony Foster creates watercolor diaries in the world’s great wildernesses. For more than 25 years, he has been painting large-scale works on what he calls “the edge of the world”. In this exhibition, Foster focuses his attention on two of the world’s most powerful subjects – Arizona’s Grand Canyon and Mount Everest in the Himalayas.

Foster has worked extensively at remote locations on the North and South Rims of the Grand Canyon,

and at Mount Everest on the North Face, where hikers generally approach, and the even more remote East Face. He is believed to be the only artist to ever create paintings of Everest from the Nepal and Tibet sides of the mountain. The exhibition is the culmination of Foster’s travels to these breathtaking sites and includes 32 recent studies and monumental paintings.

Working in delicate watercolor, Foster blends the nineteenth-century traditions of British explorers, who made detailed notebook sketches of their travels, with a contemporary artist’s interest in working in a large-scale format. His largest watercolor paintings measure an astounding six feet wide, particularly impressive considering they were made on location. Appreciation for the difficulty of working on such a scale while



on site, however, is secondary to the beauty of the paintings themselves.

Foster writes, “All of my work is based on the philosophy that our planet is a gloriously beautiful but fragile place, and that as an artist it is my role to deliver a testament to the fact that wild and pristine places still exist.”

Born in Lincolnshire, England in 1946, Foster is a Fellow of London’s Royal Geographical Society, where he has been the recipient of the Cherry Kearton Memorial Medal “for his artistic portrayal of the world’s wilderness,” and the subject of the documentary “The Man Who Painted Everest” (2006).

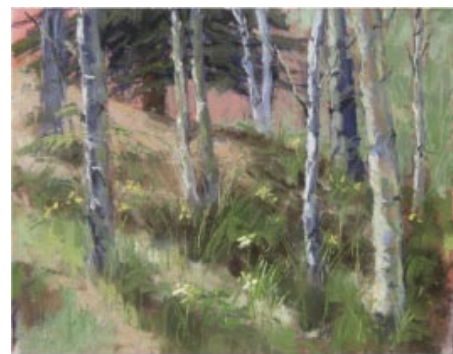
## Arizona Plein Air News

Note: This is an abbreviated version of info from APAP. Please see the website for more details: [www.arizonapleinairpainters.com](http://www.arizonapleinairpainters.com)

Recently 20 APAP members painted at Flagstaff Arboretum, and through July, Participating were Gary Binder, Terry Bowman, Cindy Carillo, Christine Debrosky, Linda Dellandre, Cody DeLong, Barbara Donahue, Rita Eklkins, Rita Goldner, David Haskell, Becky Joy, Phil Koerper, Jane Newman, Jerry Pond, Patty Rosky, Diane Scholar, Dawn Sutherland

33 paintings are in the gallery for sale and viewing. Pastelists were well represented among the group. If you head to Flagstaff for the cooler weather, stop by the Arboretum and enjoy the show in the wooded setting.

*Linda Dellandre’s “The Grove”, top*  
*Christine Debrosky’s “Woodland Garden Afternoon” bottom*





## A Plein Air Workshop with Richard McKinley in France *continued from page 1*

Jean from Australia. Another plus was that all the artists were intermediate to advanced. Only one of the artists (also from Australia) had never worked with Richard previously.



The workshop was based at the Haut Baran, a French country house about two hours outside of Toulouse in the Lot Valley. The owners are an American couple, William and Rosalie Haas, although William's father was from this very area in France and William spent his summers with his French side of the family from a very early age. William and Rosalie have refurbished the chateau with American visitors in mind and cater to art workshops and gourmet cooking retreats. The chateau and its surroundings are beautifully landscaped with amazing scenes to

paint in every direction.

The first full day of the workshop started with an overview by Richard of the workshop agenda. Haut Baran has a barn that is set up to support art workshops with long tables, french easels, stools, etc. Richard shared his setup for plein air painting as he had changed his setup recently (one is always searching for the perfect setup). He wanted a setup that would fit into a small backpack. He has downsized to the notebook size Heilman box (he brought the medium box to Italy and Tucson). However he supplemented with an ArtBox about 10" x 5" with a little lift out tray for a few pastel pencils, cretacolor hard pastels, etc. He used a Bogen Digi 725B tripod which is a very light tripod. However, he did not attach his Heilman box to the tripod....instead he used the Sun Eden easel tray which attaches to the legs of the tripod and bungee corded the box securely to the tripod. He has also created a set up to have the ArtBox setting just behind his Heilman by putting velcro on the back of the Sun Eden tray and attaching a little hook on the back leg of the tripod. In this manner the ArtBox is suspended just behind the Heilman box in an open position with ready access to its contents. He had a ball head top

for the tripod which can be swiveled to any position. To this he attached a 12" x 16" piece of gessoboard. He had attached a universal clip for the tripod to the center of the back of this board. He had a second piece of the gessoboard the same size and between these two boards he sandwiched the supports he would be painting on during the trip (or at least some of them) with binder clips. This setup allows great flexibility for adjusting the height of your support as well as angles you wish to paint from by simple adjustments of



the ball head top. It all fit nicely into a fairly small backpack! This isn't the best picture... but you can hopefully see his setup. This was the one day we had rain.... luckily we were under the bridge. This is also one of the few places I saw graffiti!!

Our first topic for focus was our setup for a painting. We created initial thumbnails to determine our composition looking at angles, masses, shapes, etc. Once we had a composition that we liked we created another thumbnail, this time using Notan. Notan is basically a value sketch that is focused on analyzing the design of your proposed painting. In other





Pastel pencil and water underpainting

words, Notan is value as composition and design instead of value as form. Although a Notan thumbnail can be done with pencil, using markers helps to clarify the different values. Richard also encouraged to keep our thumbnails small. A tip was to set your viewfinder (like the grey plastic viewfinder) to the size of your painting and then use the opening to trace the boxes for your thumbnails. Both Tombow and Pitt Artist Markers make markers with

brush tips that are in various shades of grey. Richard stressed that outdoor landscape painting tends to be a slightly higher key with 6.5 being the mid value. Shadow masses should not be darker than 3 with the 1 and 2 value being used for accents. Richard showed samples of sketch and Notan thumbnails from his sketchbook. For the first couple of days we cleared our thumbnails with Richard until he was comfortable we understood the creation and use

of thumbnails. These discussions reviewed many of the concepts and rules of good composition and design. Here is a sample of my thumbnails for my painting, “Roman Gate” along with the viewfinder I used to make the boxes and my markers for the Notan:

As a class we next moved to a focus on the underpainting. The underpainting is the setup for the application of the pastel. We discussed the various approaches that can be used based on individual preferences and/or the needs of the painting. Approaches included monochrome, local color, complementary color, set up cool/paint warm & set up warm/paint cool, etc. Richard’s preferences are watercolor underpaintings (especially plein air), but one can also use oils thinned to almost a stain, pastel using water or alcohol, etc. Richard demo-ed two underpaintings, one using water and pastel pencil and one using watercolor.

For the main body of the workshop, Richard worked with us individually based on our specific needs. We all usually painted near each other and Richard. In this way we could see what each other were doing, get on-going support from Richard, and be able to watch Richard as he worked. We had four critiques during the workshop which were extremely helpful... first to see all your work in a holistic manner and get Richard’s feedback on the strengths and weaknesses, but to also learn from the critiques of the other artists on their work.



Watercolor underpainting

*continued next page*



## A Plein Air Workshop with Richard McKinley in France *continued from page 9*

Our final day was focused on “re-solve” of our paintings. To determine any final needs of your work, Richard suggests one asks oneself the following questions:

1. What was my concept or purpose for the painting? Did I follow through on it... or lose it during the painting process?

2. Did I stay true to my determined composition? Are there changes needed at this point to the composition?

3. Do I have 4 or 5 major shapes... or did I get too busy with details (also known as the Budan Syndrome). Do I need to do some tapping with my fingers or smudging to soften edges?

4. Do I have a dominant area of interest (the star of the show)?

5. Do I have a dominant value sense? (Examples: mid-value with accents

of light and dark; light with accents of mid and light; or dark with accents of light and mid)

6. Do I have a dominant color sense threading the painting together?

7. Does it look correct when I look at it upside down and/or in a mirror?

8. Have I given myself permission to make it a painting... have I changed what is needed to make it a painting as opposed to painting exactly what was there?

Of course, all of this was presented and developed in a variety of absolutely stunning locations. From small sleepy towns, to fields of unending sunflowers in full bloom, to lavender fields on the grounds of a vineyard at the foot of a castle, to a medieval town reflected in a quietly flowing river, to St. Cirq Lapopie (voted the most beautiful village in France), to expansive overlooks

of the Lot River winding through the farmland and forests of the Lot Valley... Wow... it is truly a beautiful part of the world. One highlight was a visit to Pech Merle to see the 25,000 year old prehistoric art. Truly amazing to see.



I learned a lot, deepened previous friendships, met exciting new people, learned more about the French culture.....and can't wait to do it again!!! Please visit my web site to see some of the paintings I created at [www.karenbudan.com](http://www.karenbudan.com).



## Other Art Groups

### AZ Art Alliance

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 have collaborated to host a **statewide, juried art exhibition to select an official artwork to represent the 2009 National Capitol Christmas Tree (CCT).**

Theme: “Arizona’s Gift from the Grand Canyon State”. Artists are encouraged to consider the theme to conceptualize the vision of a 65+ foot tall Arizona Christmas Tree destined for the Nation’s Capitol.

- Open to all Arizona artists, at least 18 years of age.
- Any 2-D medium may be used • Finished artwork should be between 25-35 inches high by 20-30 inches wide.
- Finished artwork may be framed or unframed, but must be designed to hang on a wall.
- Received By Deadline: Monday, **September 7, 2009**

See [www.azartalliance.com](http://www.azartalliance.com) for application form and details!

### AZ Plein Air Painters

The Arizona Plein Air Painters is es-

tablished as a state-wide fellowship of artists who are dedicated to practicing and promoting the tradition of plein air painting. The organization works to protect public access to landscapes and historic areas within the State that are important to this tradition. The organization understands the importance of art education and seeks opportunities to form partnerships with private and government organizations to support and strengthen the arts. Members seek excellence in the pursuit of honestly interpreting the diversity of Arizona’s landscapes, history, and cultures. Members strive to mentor emerging artists and share their expertise with fellow professional artists in order to maintain the highest standards of artistic endeavor. The organization sponsors local paint-outs and shows that provide opportunities for new artists to embrace painting from life. Annual state-wide shows and other events serve to showcase the beauty of Arizona, the excellence of member’s artwork, and the importance of art to the quality of life. The art of APAP members, the partnership and educational programs they support, and the programs they conduct, will contribute significantly to capturing and documenting the beauty and history of Arizona.

This group has an established “paint out schedule at State Parks and Nature conservancies across the state, and welcomes APAA members to join or host events. Try these if you like a challenge. The paint-outs are timed events and competing artists

vote for the top 3 pieces at the end of the event. Each of those monthly winners can then show their work at a selected venue in February next year. This year’s was held at Mayo Clinic where several paintings sold. Even if you don’t care to try your hand competing, it’s still good camaraderie with talented artists supporting the beauty of Arizona.

The following is APAP’s “paint out” schedule for the balance of 2009:

- Aug 8th: Roper Lake SP, 8-noon
- Sept 19th Slide Rock SP (Apple Festival) 8-noon
- Oct 3rd Riordan Mansion SP, 8-noon
- Nov 29th Boyce Thompson Arboretum SP (Fall festival) 8-noon

For information on the paint outs please contact: Cindy Carrillo at [cindylcarrillo@yahoo.com](mailto:cindylcarrillo@yahoo.com).

For more information on APAP and related events and opportunities visit: [www.arizonapleinairpainters.com](http://www.arizonapleinairpainters.com)

### Mesa Arts Center

Upcoming community art events and opportunities for artists coming to Mesa Arts Center:  
El Dia de los Muertos Celebration October 31-November 1, 2009  
Holiday Art & Music Festival – December 12-13, 2009

Courtney Tjaden, Coordinator of Festivals, Volunteers & Tour  
Direct: 480.644.6627  
[Courtney.Tjaden@MesaArtsCenter.com](mailto:Courtney.Tjaden@MesaArtsCenter.com)



# The Upcoming Year

MONTH	ACTIVITIES	PROGRAM
September 1	Drop-Off for Fountain Hills Exhibit 10:00am and 11:00am	Fountain Hills Community Center, 13001 N. Montana Drive
September 6	Cycle One Art Challenge presented Artist of the Month Fountain Hills Open Exhibition	Digital Delights: Have all your questions answered about photographing your images, burning cd's, making jpgs, resizing them, etc.
October 4	Jurying for Fall Show Artist of the Month	No program – show jurying
November 1	Artist of the Month Fall Juried Membership Show	Cycle 2 Art Challenge Critique/Discussion
December 6	Cycle Two Art Challenge presented Artist of the Month	Christmas Social Gathering and Auction
January 3	Artist of the Month	
February 7	Artist of the Month Nominations Committee appointed	Cycle 2 Art Challenge Critique/Discussion
March 7	Cycle Three Art Challenge presented Artist of the Month Nominations Committee presents slate of candidates	
April 4	Jurying for Spring Show Artist of the Month Spring Juried Membership Show Election	No program – show jurying
May 2	Artist of the Year Installation of Officers	Cycle 3 Art Challenge Critique/Discussion

Please send your newsletter items to

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**CHECK OUT THE NEW VIDEO PAGE ON THE APAA WEBSITE ([www.azpaa.com](http://www.azpaa.com)).**