

Jurors' Statements

Art for Land's Sake 2022 – Inspired by Nature

Laurie Nessel

It's heartwarming to see the outpouring of artwork donated to the Art for Land's Sake annual fundraiser to benefit the Desert Foothills Land Trust, with many artists submitting multiple entries. Every artist deserves recognition for their generosity and dedication to conservation. Sifting through the art to highlight outstanding talent is difficult. There were many wonderful pieces and I suspect more than a few will have rousing bidding wars, including the effortless gestural verisimilitude of the serene *Trail from the Creek* by Peggy Orbon. The diminutive yet powerful, light-infused landscape, *Cactus Shadows*, by Casey Cheuvront, and the imposing, impressionistic soap tree yucca in Beverly Carlson-Bradshaw's *Sasquatch* are also eye-catching. Other canvases not in the awards category were no less compelling and not to be overlooked.

The photography category was strong, including the exquisite macro of an agave by Rosa Sidy, the ominous presence of a California kingsnake seeking prey in a blooming Palo Verde by Benjamin Kastelic, a dramatic Grand Canyon sunrise by Robert Elenbaas and the perfection of a painterly vanitas by Amanda Wolff Hunt.

Sculptures range from the nearly 6', evocative *White Erosion* by Patti Pierce, to the contemplative, miniature glass cacti of Sheila Olason's *Sonoran Aboretum*.

Jewelry, mixed-media and textiles round out the collection. Bid early and often and feel good about acquiring new art while supporting a worthy cause!

Art Smith

It is always a pleasure to jury work for the Art for Land's Sake show sponsored by the Desert Foothills Land Trust because the quality of work, the high level of craftsmanship, and the diversity of styles and subject matter are such an inspiration. There is something for everyone in this show: paintings, pastels, photography, fiber arts, 2- and 3-D mixed media pieces, sculpture, glass work, fiber art and jewelry. I found the work this year to be exceptional in its diversity and execution. Beverly Carlson-Bradshaw's pastel, "Holding On" immediately engages the viewer and pulls us into a wonderfully colorful composition. Tamsin Wolff's small mixed media sculptures are a delight and are an interesting counterpoint to Patti Pierce's large free-standing totems. Patrick O'Brien's photograph, "Lunch Time," offers a view of the desert any of us ever see. I love it. A personal favorite is Melissa Paxton's surreal oil painting, "Morning Star," which combines humor with social commentary. All in all, this show is a fun mix of a variety of mediums that celebrate the desert and all of its beauty.