

Fine Art Festival

AT CAVE CREEK'S STAGECOACH VILLAGE

Writer Donna Kublin

Nestled in the rugged, yet scenic desert foothills, Stagecoach Village in downtown Cave Creek is the setting for the 11th Annual Sonoran Festival of Fine Art March 16, 17 and 18. This juried show features world-class fine art from top local and nationally known artists, live music, wine tasting and demonstrations.

One of the largest and most prestigious open air art shows in the Southwest, the high standards for acceptance into this juried show ensure collector-quality, outstanding artwork in a variety of mediums and styles.

"Many of the over 100 participating artists work primarily out of their home studios and through galleries, so this is a rare opportunity to interact with the artists and select art to purchase directly from them," said Karen Smith-Lovejoy, festival chair. "Some of the most accomplished artists in the Southwest will be exhibiting originals works."

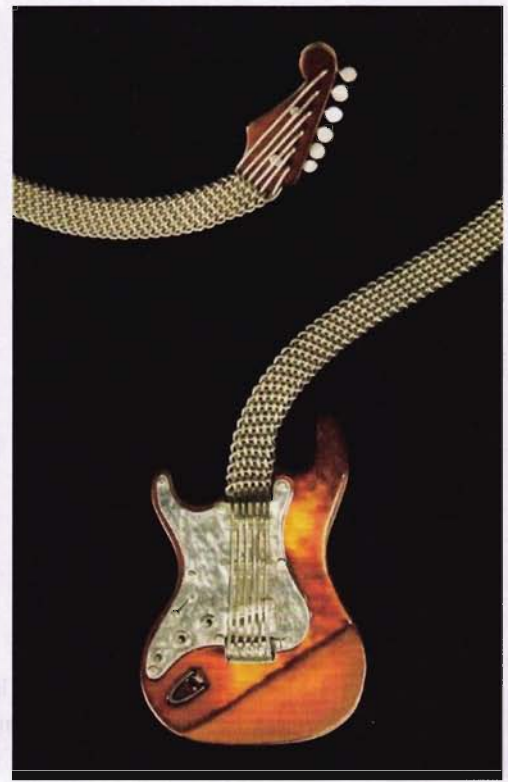
Stagecoach Village, located at 7100 E. Cave Creek Rd., Cave Creek, is an upscale Western-themed open air shopping destination offering Arizona charm, surrounded by the unrivaled beauty of the high Sonoran Desert. For the festival, the Gazebo in the Village Center will become an elegant wine garden, offering wine tasting and a selection of fine wine featuring Arizona Wine Growers, Arizona Stronghold Vineyards, Jerome Winery and Kokopelli Winery.

Three performing groups will provide live musical entertainment, including composer, pianist and recording artist Jeffrey Michael, who has performed for millions of people and sold over 750,000 CDs and downloads worldwide. He has composed for many films, TV and video game projects, and recently has become one the top art festival musicians in the country.

The smooth sounds of Patrick Ki will fill the air as the melody, harmony and rhythm of his guitar playing will remind you of Hawaii, where he spent his youth amidst the gentle rhythms of the ocean and beautiful sounds of Hawaiian music. Ki has performed extensively across the country in concerts and music festivals and has contributed to numerous film and television soundtracks.

Playing Sonoran Jazz and Modern Pop Music, dulce VAS, a unique duo of electric harp and flute, will add spice to the afternoon. Musicians VeeRonna Ragone and Sherry Finzer provide a range of music and styles. It has been said their music could best be described as the combination of a little Sting, Lady Gaga and Santana—followed by shot of tequila (with a lime, of course).

<< "Flow of Color"
artist Elizabeth Dunlop
watercolor on canvas



The Sonoran Festival of Fine Art continues the fine tradition of quality art events sponsored by the Sonoran Arts League, one of the oldest and largest leagues in Arizona, with more than 450 members. The non-profit organization actively advances art, artists and art education through leadership and service. This year, the festival is being produced in partnership with Vermillion Promotions, one of Arizona's top-rated producers of fine art, wine and culinary festivals for over 25 years.

The Sonoran Arts League will have a booth at the event that will feature an educational component and a preview of the upcoming league fundraiser on April 7. The premier event, April's For The Arts art auction, will be held at the Holland Community Center located at 34250 N. 60th Street in Scottsdale. Cave Creek Mayor Vince Francia will serve as master of ceremonies.

"It will be a night filled with music, good food and spirits, great art and time with patrons, members, loved ones and friends of the league ... all for a great cause," said Smith-Lovejoy.

www.sonoranartsleague.org 480-575-6624
www.vermillionpromotions.com 623-734-6586

Sonoran Festival of Fine Art - March 16, 17, 18
Admission and parking is free.

Stagecoach Village
7100 E. Cave Creek Rd., Cave Creek