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New exhibit season at Twentynine Palms Visitor Center & Gallery

The Public Arts Advisory Committee (PAAC) of the City of Twentynine Palms has announced a new schedule of Art in Public Places exhibitions and events planned for the City's Visitor Center & Gallery and Chamber of Commerce office downtown, beginning this June and running through spring 2013.

Former Twentynine Palms Mayor Steve Flock will kick off the season as a solo featured artist for the Summer Art Exhibition at the Visitor Center & Gallery, with a photography show of historic desert scenes, from Amboy and abandoned cabins to images of Keys Ranch in Joshua Tree National Park. The show runs from June 8 to August 31, and a public art reception will include music and refreshments on Saturday, June 18, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

A series of themed art exhibitions will begin in September. Twentynine Palms artists are encouraged to contact the PAAC for exhibit guidelines and details about the juried group shows and to consider creating a piece of original work for one or more of the desert-themed exhibitions.

Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 will be the first themed show of the year, "The Pioneer Spirit," a group show in honor of Pioneer Days. Local artists are invited to contact the PAAC about entering a piece of original or historic work in remembrance of the men and women who homesteaded this desert valley. A reception for the show is planned for Saturday, Sept. 3.

Nov. 1 to Dec. 31 will be "Keys' Ranch," a group show celebrating the historic images or remnants of the homesteading and gold mining days of Bill and Frances Keys and their Desert Queen Ranch in Joshua Tree National Park. An art reception will be held on Saturday, Nov. 5, in conjunction with "Wonderful Weekend" events, including the Weed Show at the Old Schoolhouse Museum and The Southland Show at 29 Palms Art Gallery.

The 2012 themed shows begin with "Desert Storms" Jan. 2 to Feb. 29, followed by "Desert Wildflowers" March 1 to May 31, and "Desert Nights" June 1 to August 31. Fall and winter exhibitions will be titled "Desert Homesteading" for Sept. 1 to Oct. 31, and "Sunrise—Sunset" for Nov. 1 to Dec. 31.

Two themed exhibitions planned for early 2013 will celebrate “Palms” from Jan. 2 to Feb. 28, and explore “Desert Critters” from March 1 to May 31.

All exhibitions are part of the Art in Public Places program administered by the City’s Public Arts Advisory Committee. The Visitor Center & Gallery is located at 73484 29 Palms Hwy., at Desert Queen Avenue, downtown Twentynine Palms. Artists requesting more information can contact Larry Bowden at the Recreation Department (760)367-7562. Guidelines and entry rules for the exhibits will also be available online in the near future at www.29palms.org.

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