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ARTISTS LINING UP TO “CELEBRATE 29!”

More than 20 artists have already registered to participate in the first “Celebrate 29!” Juried Art Exhibition in Twentynine Palms to be held during Pioneer Days, Oct. 16-18. Hosted by the City of Twentynine Palms Public Arts Advisory Committee (PAAC), the exhibit will feature artist interpretations of the local cultural and natural landscape, including what inspires their artwork or what aspects of the city and its environs they wish to celebrate.

The brainchild of PAAC Chairman Chuck Caplinger, the judged exhibition is the first of its kind for the PAAC, which hosts bi-monthly art exhibits at Twentynine Palms City Hall and oversees the city’s Art in Public Places program. This year the committee wanted to add an art event to the Pioneer Days celebration and to tie in with the “Celebrate 29!” theme for Pioneer Days 2009, which itself was inspired by the “29!” sculpture installed downtown last May.

The committee would like to see the art exhibition become an annual event, with artists throughout the basin submitting their version of what inspires them about Twentynine Palms.

Andy Weddington of Yucca Valley and Rik Livingston of Joshua Tree are among the artists slated to enter their work in the show, which will include paintings, photography, drawings, mixed media, mosaic tile, and quilting. Among the Twentynine Palms artists who have pre-registered for the exhibition are a few names that are new to the local art scene as well as some recognized local favorites: Terah Acedevo, Allen and Mita Barter, David Beeken, Dana Bowden, Deanne Chatterton, Gretchen Grunt, Perry Hoffman, Charles Lenoff, Fred Libby, Natalie Massey, Laura Peterson-Volz, Patricia Quandel, John Snowden, Dawn Whitaker, and Gloria White.

Cash prizes of \$300 for first place, \$200 for second place, \$100 for third place, and honorable mention ribbons will be awarded at an opening reception on Friday, Oct. 16, from 6 to 9 p.m., at the Community Center next to Luckie Park, 74325 Joe Davis Drive off Utah Trail.

The exhibit will continue through Pioneer Days weekend, on Saturday, Oct. 17, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 18, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Community Center.

Judges for the event have been selected from the Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council, the Public Arts Advisory Committee, and the Twentynine Palms Artists Guild. Entries are due Thursday morning, Oct. 15, at the Community Center, and will be judged prior to the Friday night reception.

For more information or for last-minute artist registrations, contact Larry Bowden at 760-367-7562, or go online to the Art in Public Places page on the city's web site www.ci.twentynine-palms.ca.us.

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Photo Caption information:

Photography by Patricia Quandel of Twentynine Palms, one of more than 20 artists in the "Celebrate 29!" Juried Art Exhibition on display at the Community Center in Luckie Park, Oct. 16-18, during Pioneer Days in Twentynine Palms.