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MARILYN FERNALD AND CHRIS WALTERS FEATURED IN ART IN PUBLIC PLACES AT CITY HALL

Art in Public Places at City Hall opened its November/December exhibit this week at Twentynine Palms City Hall. Featured are more than 30 paintings of the Southwest desert by artists Marilyn Fernald of Twentynine Palms and Chris Walters of Joshua Tree.

A reception for the artists will be held at City Hall on Tuesday, Nov. 10, from 5 to 6 p.m. prior to the City Council meeting. The public is invited to attend.

Born in Colorado Springs, Marilyn Fernald moved to the desert with her family in the late 1940s from the Midwest, and is the second of three generations of creative Twentynine Palms women. According to Fernald, her introduction to art was very informal. "As life would have it, no formal education opportunities came to pass." In recent years, she has worked in both photography and oils on canvas. Her paintings are inspired by the "wonderful images and colors of the desert," reproducing desert scenes and old abandoned structures, and each painting contains a personal story or memory from her travels and her life.

Chris Walters, a native Californian, works in a variety of mediums. Best known for his paintings, he is also a bench jeweler and sculptor. He has studied Art, Architectural and Mechanical Drawing, as well as Art Metals and Jewelry at Pierce College. The artist lived for many years on Santa Catalina Island and participated in the annual International Art Festival and Show in Avalon. In 2002, Walters moved to Joshua Tree. Recently he has been studying with artist Chuck Caplinger and producing oils on canvas that are Realism/Impressionism works of Native American and Southwest desert scenes.

The current art exhibit is sponsored by the Public Arts Advisory Committee and will remain on display through Dec. 31 at City Hall, 6136 Adobe Road, open for viewing Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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