



Media Contact: Sue Kern-Fleischer, (602) 810-1404, suekern@gmail.com

Ralph Parker is Featured Artist at 23rd Annual Carefree Fine Art & Wine Festival Jan. 29, 30 & 31

Contemporary wall-sculpture artist from Colorado is one of more than 165 award-winning artists showcased at the festival

Carefree, Ariz. – January 27, 2016 – If you're in the market for fine art, be sure to visit Thunderbird Artists' 23rd Annual Carefree Fine Art & Wine Festival taking place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, January 29, 30 & 31 in downtown Carefree, at the intersection of Easy Street and Ho Hum Drive. The award-winning festival features more than 165 juried fine artists, live musical entertainers, appetizing food, mouthwatering sweets and a wine tasting experience like none other.

"This year's festival features a fabulous roster of juried artists," said Denise Dale, vice president of Thunderbird Artists. "As you stroll through Easy Street, you'll be captivated by the diverse selection of high-quality original pieces of fine art, including small to life-sized bronzes, paintings, pottery, photography, scratchboard, wood, clay, metal and glass sculptures, batiks, jewelry and more."

The fine art festival's featured artist is Ralph Parker, a contemporary, wall-sculpture artist from Colorado.

"Ralph specializes in creating one-of-a-kind glass pieces. As a self-taught artist, he has spent most of his life developing a unique technique for creating his contemporary, glass wall sculptures," Dale said.

Parker begins each piece by building a foundation and cutting the glass with a hand-held glass cutter. He finishes each piece with a homemade steel rod for easy hanging. Every sculpture is unique in design and construction. He strives to reflect his vision of a contemporary, clean and cutting edge look in all pieces created.

In addition to the brilliant works of Ralph Parker, the event hosts the works of more than 165 other juried fine artists and craftsman, displaying sensational oil paintings on canvas, acrylics, watercolors, pastels, charcoals and mixed media. Other mediums include spectacular small, medium and life-sized bronzes, luminous glass sculptures, small, medium and monumental sized metal creations and fabulous batiks. There is also hand thrown clay, Raku pottery and sculptures, traditional and color scratchboard, hand woven baskets, inlaid wood turned bowls, unique and one of a kind jewelry, black & white or color photography, elegant stone, copper, clay, mixed media sculptures and more.

Wine Tastings

In addition to meeting award-winning artists and enjoying live musical performances, festival attendees can participate in a world-class wine tasting. For \$10, patrons will receive an engraved souvenir wine glass and six tasting tickets. Additional tickets may be purchased for \$1. A vast array of domestic and imported wines will be available from wineries including: Aridus Wine Company, Arizona Stronghold, PRP Wine, Schlossadler International, Su Vino, Sogno Toscano and more.

Admission to the Carefree Fine Art & Wine Festival is \$3 for adults, and free for children 18 years or younger. Parking is free all weekend. For more information, call (480) 837-5637 or visit www.ThunderbirdArtists.com.

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