LAS CRUCES ARTS FAIR SHOWCASES WORK FROM ALL OVER US, MEXICO

S. DERRICKSON MOORE | LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

If you go
What: Las Cruces Arts Fair

When: Friday through March 20. Hours are 5-8 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, March 20.

Where: Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University in Las Cruces

How much: Admission is $6; free for children 12 and younger.

Information: daarts.org, 575-523-6403
LAS CRUCES - More than 100 artists from the United States and Mexico will be featured at the upcoming three-day Las Cruces Arts Fair at the Las Cruces Convention Center.

A jury of local art professionals selected participating artists for the sixth annual fair. Artists will show and sell paintings, drawings, photography, prints, sculpture, pottery, ceramics, glass, weaving and fiber arts, woodwork, metalwork, hand-crafted furniture, wearable art, and multimedia works.

"It will be a really great show this year," said Kathleen Albers, executive director of the Doña Ana Arts Council, sponsor of the event, which starts Friday. "We are using the large exhibit hall, the ballroom and the hallway for artists' booths, and we will have an Emerging Artists area in the entrance hall with booths for NMSU and several area high school art students."

Marcia Starich, an arts council board member who is coordinating the event with volunteer Marianne Lappin, said the arts fair “gives us a perspective of artists from all over the United States and it exposes people to different styles and ideas in the art world.”

She said it attracts art aficionados, collectors and top artists like Santa Fe painter Amado Peña, who has been with the fair since it began in 2010, and Albuquerque artist James Toodle.

“We’ll have a number of new artists this year. I am most excited about recruiting Arturo Buenrostro, an artist from San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, who makes wonderful purses out of recycled pop tops and tire inner tubes,” Albers said.

Participating artists come from throughout New Mexico and Texas, and from Arizona, California, Washington, Montana, and Colorado. Thirty-two artists will exhibit at the fair for the first time this year, said Linda J. Moore, Doña Ana Arts Council administrative assistant.

Regional artists also will be featured, including El Paso painters Krystyna Robbins and Candy Mayer and jewelry artists Pam Schuster and Tamara St. Jean.

The fair also will include live music, art demonstrations, and a silent auction of works donated by the fair artists.

“The Las Cruces Arts Fair will kick off with a Friday evening event that will feature live music by the guitar ensemble Euterpe of El Paso and Juárez,” Albers said. “Patrons who purchase Friday night tickets, and arrive at the event between 5 and 6:30 p.m., will receive a complimentary beverage of their choice from the cantina. Friday night ticket-holders also are welcome to come back, free of charge, either Saturday or Sunday.”

Euterpe and Trio Romantico will perform on Saturday and Sunday.

Proceeds from ticket sales and the silent auction help fund Doña Ana Arts Council’s art education programs.

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Colorful jewelry by Tamara St. Jean of El Paso.
The work of Bonnie Siebert of Amarillo will be featured at the Las Cruces Arts Fair.

Jeff Kuhns, whose work is shown here, will be among artists from Silver City at the Las Cruces Arts Fair.