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Desert Museum Discovery

Winter 2022

CELEBRATING



By Craig Ivanyi, Executive Director

On Labor Day in 1952, the gates of the Museum opened to visitors, thus beginning a lasting legacy of making Sonoran Desert education accessible to millions of people. During the past seven decades, the Museum has been a leader in the industry; spearheading the creation of naturalistic exhibits, immersing the public in a holistic Sonoran Desert experience, and working hard on conservation efforts behind-the-scenes.

When you visit the Desert Museum, you know you are in a special place. From the springtime blooms and summertime monsoons, to the perfect winter weather, the grounds of the Museum provide an enchanting opportunity to enjoy this unique region. We take pride in knowing that this place has touched so many hearts and minds through the years.

SEVEN UPDATES FOR OUR 70TH ANNIVERSARY

1) CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, & SCIENCE by Debra Colodner, Ph.D.

The story of effective conservation, for the last seventy years, and for the foreseeable future, is partnership! The Museum's conservation educators and scientists work together in one department, fostering collaboration on authentic conservation-focused STEM experiences for students of all

ages. For instance, the Tucson Bee Collaborative brings together Desert Museum, University of Arizona and Pima College scientists, educators and students with K-12 teachers and students in the Flowing Wells and Sunnyside School Districts, as well as Museum science Volunteers and Docents to study, teach about, and conserve these most important pollinators. In another partnership story, the Museum's most important role in fighting invasive grasses is as the coordinator of the dozens of agencies and private landowners that are working to wrangle these weeds. Looking forward, our Conservation Education and Science Department is most excited by our growing collaborations with educators and scientists on the Tohono O'odham Nation to build understanding and co-design resources that will benefit all of us that now inhabit their magnificent ancestral lands.

...continued on page 2



2

THE ART INSTITUTE by Marie McGhee

Happy 70th anniversary from your newest program, the ASDM Art Institute! AI's mission is "Conservation through Art Education." Our goal is to provide a high-quality visual arts experience for all. Classes are taught by professionals and relate to our living collections. We curate our exhibits to inspire new ways of thinking about the natural world. Vanishing Circles, our permanent traveling collection, is used to educate people beyond Tucson.

In 2021, the AI served 981 students through 191 different art and photography classes taught by 20 instructors. Our Artist in Residence program is expanding and our next artist arrives in May of 2023. Future classes and exhibits will be enriched as new artists join us.

We look back with gratitude to the founders of the Art Institute, Michael and Priscilla Baldwin. Priscilla's vision and determination made the AI come to life and with her continued inspiration, it will evolve and flourish in the years to come.



3

COLLECTIONS by Stéphane Poulin

The last two to three years were very tough for all the zoo-keepers and horticulturists that care for collections. While facing the same challenges we all did, the dedicated staff continued to work tirelessly to ensure that all the animals, plants, and collection specimens received the amazing care the Museum is known for. Additionally, while configuring working schedules and social distancing of humans, the animals also needed protection. Happily, some of our most at-risk mammals are now vaccinated for Covid-19.

The coming year will be focused on finding the new normal for all staff and collections. A high priority project is assessing and documenting the wellbeing of all animals in our care. We also hope to fill a few of our empty enclosures with exciting animal additions. ***The main focus will highlight a continued goal: quality care for animals while supporting our staff; both to the highest level.***



4

MARKETING by Elena Makansi

We celebrate because of YOU! Not only does our community make our conservation and education work possible, you also make it meaningful and fun. So much has shifted in the last three years alone that reflecting on our enduring contributions and evolution over seven decades feels especially poignant. To honor the support and engagement of our amazing community over the years, we will be celebrating with special member promotions and events. ***Stay tuned on our website and social media for 70th anniversary happenings throughout the entire year!***



5



PHILANTHROPY by *Lynnae Wenker*

Thank you for seventy wonderful years of support! The Museum has been a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization since the early years, never receiving any regular annual subsidies or fixed governmental support. We depend principally on guest admissions, memberships, and generous donations from people like YOU!

Please remember us during your year-end gift planning! Whether a direct gift online or in the mail, or gifting stock and appreciated securities, your support makes such a difference. You can even receive tax benefits if you direct your Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to charities like the Desert Museum. Bonus: a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) up to \$100K is not taxed.

To celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Desert Museum, there will be events throughout the year. Visit our website at desertmuseum.org, subscribe to our e-newsletter for news, and **help support us by making a gift online at desertmuseum.org/donate**. We look forward to another wonderful 70 years of showcasing the Sonoran Desert region to millions of people. Thank you for being a desert hero!

6

VOLUNTEERS by *Catherine Kastens*

The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum simply would not be here without volunteers! Part of the Museum's origin story as an organization includes narrative that a "handful of somewhat paid staff, aided by more volunteers than they could count, completed an astonishing amount of work in record-breaking time" in order to open the Museum. Over the years, the Volunteer Program, including the Docent Program initiated in 1972, became more formalized and structured.

Today, the Volunteer Program consists of around 360 people ages 12 to 93 who support the Museum with their time, energy, and talent regularly. Now that volunteers are back on the Museum grounds after pandemic closures, we are turning our attention to providing volunteers with supportive educational and social enrichment opportunities through monthly gatherings that include: awards, updates, educational lectures related to the Sonoran Desert bioregion, and interactive workshops on guest engagement and interpretive skills. In the coming months and years, our program goal is to better represent our community-at-large by identifying and removing barriers to involvement wherever we can. **Happy 70th anniversary to all Desert Museum Volunteers! We appreciate you more than you can know!**



7

FACILITIES AND EXHIBITS by *Stéphane Poulin*

Within the Maintenance Department, the post-pandemic focus has been taking care of our facilities and infrastructure, which is buoyed by strong financial support from the Museum. Projects such as roof building, installation of HVAC systems, interior and exterior painting, and so much more have been progressing, not only in areas accessible to visitors but behind-the-scenes in our holdings and office areas as well. We expect more work in the coming months to repair pathways, trip hazards, and lighting. Pima County (who owns the lands upon which the Desert Museum sits) will be logistically and financially supporting several of these projects. A very visible upgrade guests will notice is the repair and sealing of the parking lot!

Our Exhibits team is also hard at work revamping the Vulture Culture exhibit, which needed new support poles and mesh installation. We want to bring back our birds, the vultures and caracaras, for visitors to enjoy. **After that, Exhibits will focus on smaller projects while design and planning progresses concurrently on the new Riparian Adventure exhibit!**



Take a class! Take a trip!

For more details and to register for classes and trips: 520-883-3025 or desertmuseum.org/adult-classes. Note member and non-member pricing.

RÍO SONORA HERITAGE TOUR DECEMBER 9 – 12

This agrarian region is still very much as it was hundreds of years ago, with farmers and ranchers thriving in the fertile valley. Highlights include visits to the missions of Magdalena, Cucúrpe, Banámichi, Aconchi and Baviácora. We will be treated to a folklorico dance performance, a lecture on the processing of the miraculous agave, mezcal tasting, and enjoying local cuisine. **\$1100**



VALLE DE GUADALUPE: EXPLORING BAJA'S HINTERLANDS MARCH 13 – 17, 2023

Valle de Guadalupe is a spectacular alluvial plain surrounded by olive orchards, beautiful vineyards and expansive ranch lands. We'll spend our days connecting the history of native cultures in the region to how the Valle has evolved into a wine and culinary mecca. Highlights include an afternoon at the tribal community of San Antonio Necua, several wine tastings led by a sommelier, over-the-top culinary experiences and seaside hotel accommodations overlooking the Pacific Ocean. **\$2675/\$2925**

NORTHERN SPAIN EARLY SEPTEMBER 2023

Verdant rolling hills, cliffy coastlines, trout streams, and seaside fishing villages are all part of the unexpected landscape of Asturias, Cantabria and the Basque country. We take the slow train stopping at inland hamlets to explore Neolithic ruins, Roman iron mines, cider houses, and the Camino de Santiago. As a counterpoint to the old, we visit Bilbao's Guggenheim Museum of modern art. This is a pre-trip to our main tour.



SPAIN: MOORS AND CHRISTIANS, OLIVES AND WINE Tracing the Cultural and Agricultural Roots of the Southwest LATE SEPTEMBER 2023

The Spanish flavor of the Southwest is in fact an amalgam of Spain's previous occupants – Arabs, Jews, Visigoths and Romans. Walk through cathedrals, markets, orchards, towns, ancient castles and sunny beaches with an eye for the influencing factors of these peoples. Tour a rural winery during the grape harvest, sample tapas and wines, learn to prepare paella, and see the Holy Grail!

JUST IN GEOLOGIC TIME: Mineral Madness turns 30!

MINERAL MADNESS

DIG INTO THE ROCKIN' WORLD OF MINERALS WITH FUN HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES.

PUBLIC EVENT

Saturday & Sunday Jan 14th & 15th, 2023

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Visit geology and fossil activity stations where children can collect rocks, minerals, and fossils in their own egg-carton collection box. Free with Museum admission!

MEMBERS EVENT

Thursday Jan 12, 2023

4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Check website to sign up for timed entry starting on Wednesday, January 4!



DON'T MISS!!!

Gemstones & Jewelry • Rare Minerals • Fluorescent Minerals • Quartz Crystals & Chalcedony • Fossilized Poop (Coprolites) • Plant & Rock combos • Lapidary Rock

Shop for your own mineral and fossil treasures at rock-bottom prices. See a great variety of minerals and fossils from around the world including rare minerals.

DESERT MUSEUM

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

What's your favorite part of your day?

Any time I see or interact with one of the animals. So, most parts of the day. My fellow keepers are pretty swell, too.



Cyndy Baker
Keeper II



What's a day in the life while working at the Museum? We begin each day reading over the reports from our co-workers from the day before. This includes information about what is going on with the animals and lets us know what needs to be watched for or any extra tasks that might need to be done that day. Then we head up to the animal kitchen and gather their meals and any medications needed for the animals that we are caring for that day. The remainder of the morning is spent greeting the animals, feeding, medicating, conducting training sessions, and cleaning. Interspersed in these tasks there are cute animal pictures to be taken,

scratches to be given (to those animals who can be scratched), and professions of admiration and esteem to be provided. It is then back to the kitchen to wash dishes, make diets and gather the behavioral enrichment for the day. We then take lunch and discuss any issues, cuteness, or events that happened in the morning. Our afternoon is spent checking on animals, feeding out dinners, providing enrichment, perhaps conducting more training sessions, putting animals to bed (bringing them into or providing access to night houses), and writing reports about the events of the day.

Why have you continued to work at the Museum? I feel an obligation to the animals I've helped care for – many of whom I've worked with nearly from the time they entered this world to the time they, sadly, leave it. I also have been very fortunate in my coworkers. I am truly honored to work with such dedicated and hard-working people. Lastly, it is difficult to imagine a more beautiful "office" in which to spend my week. While I may not always enjoy working in 100F+ degree temperatures, you really can't beat the view!

“...It's that support and opportunity for movement that keeps me going not just at work but personally as well.”



Rae Southee
Guest Services Assistant

My favorite thing to do is my 7:00 am drive to the Museum and take in the amazing desert we work in every day.



David Swainston
Purchasing/Warehouse Supervisor

I love my job because it varies so much. I receive items at the dock from several vendors. I get to see most of the Museum daily when delivering many of these items to the departments. This includes getting to know so many of the employees who make the Museum what it is. I spend a good amount of my day ordering various supplies for all departments and connecting with department supervisors to ensure we are getting the best products and the best prices. It's like being a personal shopper for the Museum.

I continue working at the Museum because I like the variety in my job, and really love the sense of accomplishment every day.

I really enjoy working for a company that has such a good mission. Anyone you speak to about the Museum loves it and speaks very highly of the people that work here.

In an ideal day, after I clock in I count the safe, open the ticket windows and gates and prepare to welcome guests for the day. I keep an ear out on the walkie talkie (calls to base, first aids both minor and major, separated parties, etc), answer guests' questions in-person, over the phone, and on the Info Line, sell tickets and memberships to guests, and give guests recommendations on exhibits they might want to spend extra time at depending on their interests. At the end of the day I close up, cash out, clock out, and head home for the night. If the weather is nice, I'll go for a walk around the Museum on break to say 'hi' to some of my favorite animals (the coyotes and Dot the Otter!). If the weather is rainy, I'll make sure to keep an eye on WeatherBug to track storms in case we need to initiate Lightning Protocol for the Museum.

I love working at the Museum because it's such a beautiful place and the people I work with make every day interesting. I'm also encouraged to grow. For example, I volunteer in the Interpretive Animal Collection. I'm also in school and hope to work in an animal department one day. It's that support and opportunity for movement that keeps me going not just at work but personally as well.

DONOR RECOGNITION

4/21/22 – 8/31/22

MAJOR DONORS +\$10,000

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Michael and Priscilla Baldwin
Bert Martin Foundation
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The Flinn Foundation
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In honor of Elaine Forcier

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In honor of Martha Mount

George Mount

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Rohrbaugh-Huete

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Dr. Fred and Dorris Wampler

IN MEMORY OF

In memory of Mary and Lewis Bacharach

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Carmine and Anita Chester

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Raina Bartlett

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David Flagg

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Donna Parker

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Michael Harris

In memory of Richard Jacobs

Toby Ward

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Norma Lackow

In memory of Lynn Larson

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Anthony Merola

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Laura Sundt Eberly and Jon Eberly

In memory of Totten K Warfield Sr.

Laura Sundt Eberly and Jon Eberly

In memory of Irene Kessler Watkins

Rick Spears

In memory of Ceal Wilkinsin

Karen and Mark Maedge

In memory of Carol Wilson

Dorothy McCloskey

In memory of Lauray Yule

Anna Domitrovic

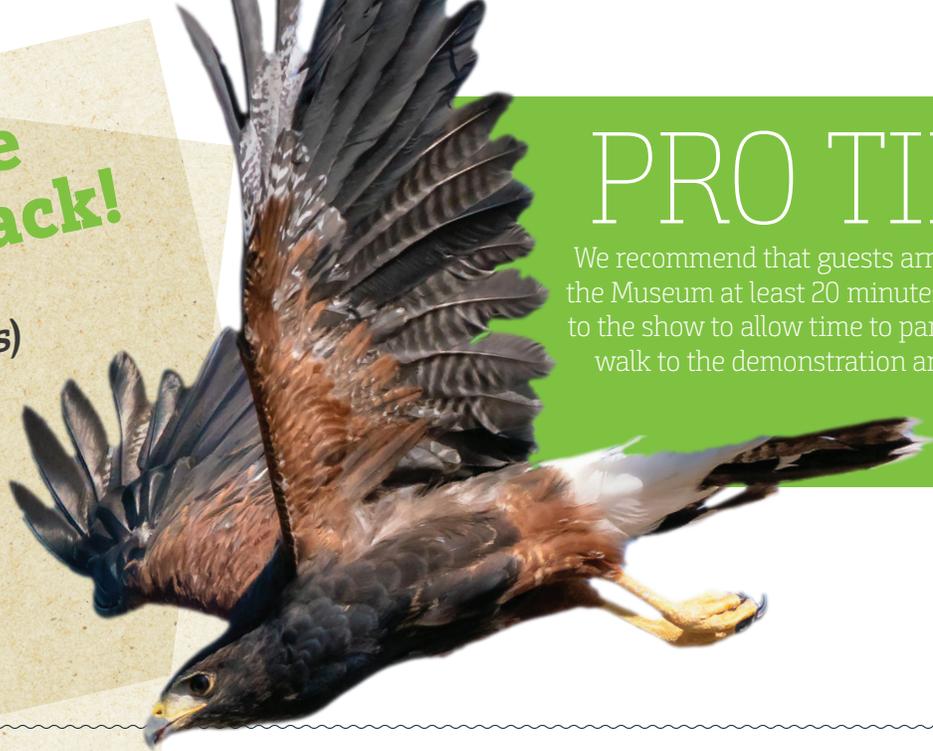
ARIZONA-SONORA
DESERT
MUSEUM

Raptor Free Flight is back!

Show runs daily
(except Wednesdays)
at 10:00 a.m.

Now
thru
April 9, 2023

(All dates subject to
weather-related change)



PRO TIP

We recommend that guests arrive at the Museum at least 20 minutes prior to the show to allow time to park and walk to the demonstration areas.

DESERT MUSEUM ARTS UPDATE

www.desertmuseumarts.com

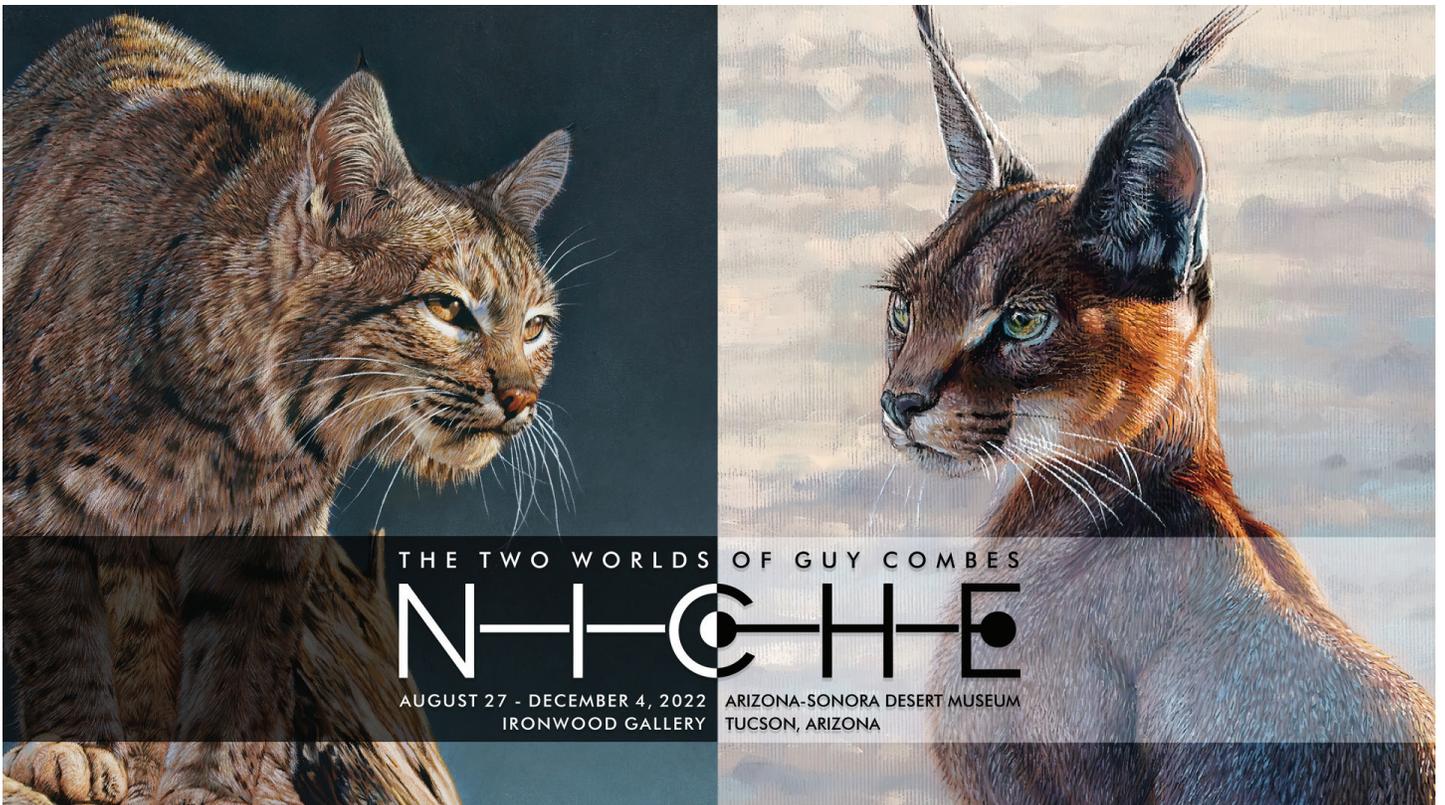
NICHE: The Two Worlds of Guy Combes

August 2022- December 2022

The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum's Ironwood Gallery is proud to present **NICHE: The Two Worlds of Guy Combes**. The first solo show for Kenyan born, Tucson-based wildlife artist Guy Combes, **NICHE** will juxtapose the flora, fauna, and inspiration of the two places the artist knows best, East Africa's Central Rift Valley, and the Sonoran Desert. This exhibition explores the relationship between environmental conditions and the survival strategies that plants and animals alike evolve over time, all viewed through the unique perspective of a wildlife artist. This collection will draw your attention to the wondrous subtleties of change over time, and open a window to one of the most awe-inspiring aspects of our natural history.

IRONWOOD GALLERY HOURS

Daily: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



THE TWO WORLDS OF GUY COMBES

NICHE

AUGUST 27 - DECEMBER 4, 2022
IRONWOOD GALLERY

ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM
TUCSON, ARIZONA

DESERT MUSEUM ARTS UPDATE

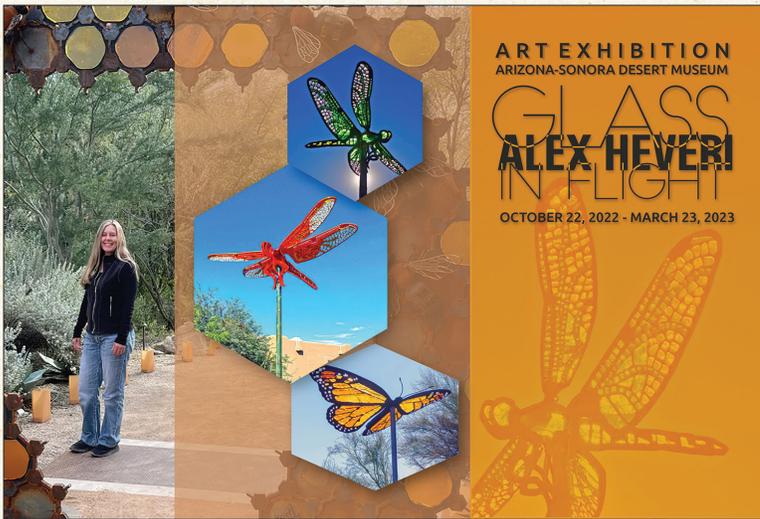
www.desertmuseumarts.com

ARIZONA-SONORA
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MUSEUM



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The mission of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is to inspire people to live in harmony with the natural world by fostering love, appreciation, and understanding of the Sonoran Desert.



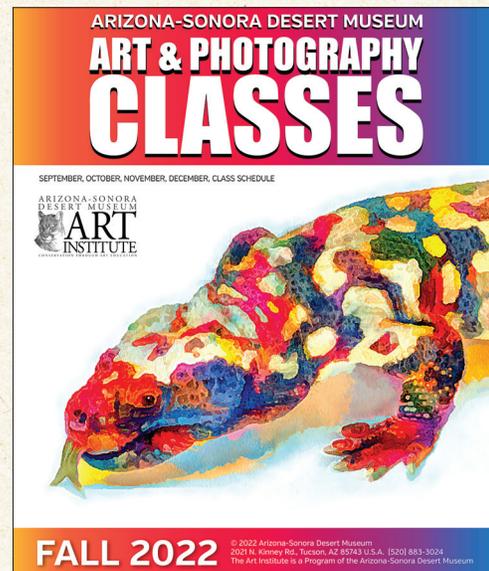
GLASS IN FLIGHT: Alex Heveri November 2022-March 2023

Glass in Flight features 21 steel and Dalle de Verre glass sculptures of gigantic, realistic insects. Created singularly by Alex Heveri, each piece captures the essence of flight. Sunlight through the stained glass mimics the transparency and iridescence of real insect wings, intensifying the illusion of movement and life. All dragonflies and some butterflies are mounted on 12-foot poles, making these towering, glittering sculptures informative, engaging and simply enchanting. Find these sculptures around the grounds of the Museum beginning in November!

WINTER ART CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Discover your talent...

...as an artist or work in the studio for fun, while you enjoy the surroundings at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. We offer individual classes as well as a certificate of completion program in nature art. The unique backdrop of the Museum becomes your classroom, while you have the option of drawing birds, mammals, insects, and desert botanicals. You can also participate in a wide variety of classes and workshops including oil painting, nature journaling, mixed media and photography. **Join us! Sign up at: desertmuseumarts.com**



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www.desertmuseum.org

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The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is located on the ancestral lands of the Tohono O'odham (Desert People).