

PRESS RELEASE

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Mojave Water Agency announces call for art ***New expo to focus on Water in the Desert: Preserving our Oasis***

Apple Valley, CA — The Mojave Water Agency has partnered with the Hi-Desert Cultural Center's flagship art gallery in Greater Joshua Tree to launch a premier Art Expo focusing on *Water in The Desert-Preserving Our Oasis*. This juried exhibition invites all mediums of visual art expressions (except video) to highlight the overarching message that “Water is Life!”

Some examples of visual elements include monsoonal summer thunderstorms, torrential flash floods, oases, winter desert snowfalls, evaporating mud holes, lifestyles impacted by the desert aridness, or other similar desert and water-centric inspirations. All qualifying entries must contain the two key elements: water and desert.

Art will be juried in three categories:

- Photography
- 2-dimensional (oil, acrylic, pastels, pen & ink, etc.)
- 3-dimensional (sculpture/glass/weaving/textiles/ceramic/metal/woodwork, etc.)

A total of 10 awards will be offered including first, second and third place awards in each category, plus a special Mojave Water Agency Choice Award. All winners will be featured in the Mojave Water Agency press and may also be promoted by the other desert water agencies and the Gallery.

“Water conservation must be top of mind for anyone who lives, works and visits our beautiful desert,” said Division 2 Director, Marina West. “This exhibition will help do that by featuring visual representations of water within our arid environment and why it is so important to use this precious resource wisely.”

The competition is open to living artists at least 18 years old. Employees and contractors of the Mojave Water Agency or the Hi-Desert Cultural Center are not eligible to compete for prizes, but may enter the juried exhibition.

“Although the exhibition is being held in Joshua Tree, any artist with an eye and a heart for conservation in the desert is encouraged to participate,” said West.

All artwork must be original pieces created by the artist and must be offered for sale, with a sales



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commission of 35% benefiting local area youth to provide financial aid awards for their participation in HDCC's arts courses. For entry guidelines, fees and deadlines, visit <https://bit.ly/WaterArtExpo2023>.

MWA serves approximately 500,000 residents within its 4,900-square-mile service area. For more information on the Mojave Water Agency or to schedule an educational presentation, visit www.mojavewater.org or call the Agency at (760) 946-7000.

Hi-Desert Cultural Center's Joshua Tree Gallery of Contemporary Art is located in the Yucca Valley Visual & Performing Arts Center at 58325 SR 62, Yucca Valley, CA 92284. Visit www.jtgoa.com for more information on the gallery.

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