

## LA QUINTA ARTS FESTIVAL 2008 PREVIEW



### One Day is Just Not Enough!

Southern California's highest rated fine art event returns to La Quinta Civic Center Campus March 13-16, 2008. With the City of La Quinta as Premier Sponsor, La Quinta Arts Festival has earned the following prestigious awards years running:

- Top 10 Art Fairs & Festivals – American Style Magazine 2006 & 2007 Readers Poll
- Best Music/Arts Festival – Palm Springs Life Best of the Best – Reader's Choice 2006 & 2007

Discriminating patrons know that one day is just not enough to view the exquisite work from 250 of the nation's foremost contemporary artists. Selected from 1,000 applicants, these artists representing 38 states and Canada, demonstrated mastery of their medium and excellence in presentation. It is exciting to note that 28% of the artists are new to the show and will be seen for the first time in the Coachella Valley at the 26th La Quinta Arts Festival! Secure a multi-day pass (a bargain at \$15) to take in, and take home the Best of the Best art in Southern California. *Continued p.4*

## ARTIST SUCCESS STORIES

**Jim Stallings'** career has continued to prosper since his stint as La Quinta Arts Festival's 25th Anniversary Poster Artist in 2007, where he garnered valuable exposure while creating an impromptu painting to the music of The Buddy Roger's Youth Symphony. The still wet painting was auctioned to the crowd attending the La Quinta Arts Festival Poster Unveiling and Community Concert on February 18, 2007.

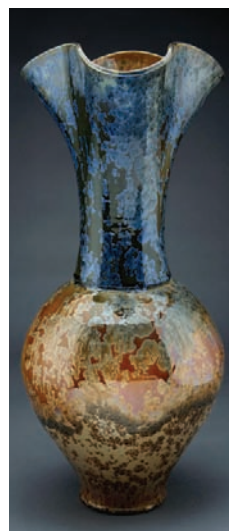
Known as the "Painter to the Symphonies," Stallings' association with LQAF led to a prestigious opportunity in December for a private corporate event at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in Los Angeles. Painting to live jazz this time, Stallings took his interactive style to the next level by inviting Oaktree Capital Management employees to join him by adding their own colorful brushstrokes to the striking abstract painting which now hangs in Oaktree's corporate office in Los Angeles.

*Continued p.3*

### Sneak Peek!

*Eric Johnson*  
Deep Forest (right)

*Elliott Newton*  
Pot  
(below)



### What's Inside

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**Jim Stallings, Elliott Newton,**  
**Eric Johnson, Larry & Nancy Cush**

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To volunteer, make a contribution,  
or get more information, please call  
**760-564-1244**  
or visit us on the web [www.lqaf.com](http://www.lqaf.com)



## From the Executive Director

### Dear Friends,

Usually you receive our Artifacts newsletter and there is barely enough space to give you the calendar of upcoming events and to recap what has transpired. Not this time! We are expanding Artifacts to eight pages for this issue to share some wonderful information about the impact of La Quinta Arts Foundation in our community. I know you will take pleasure in learning just how significant a role LQAF plays in the lives of all of our constituents: artists, students, volunteers, local business and community partners, and how we are all better for it. Enjoy!

Christi Salamone

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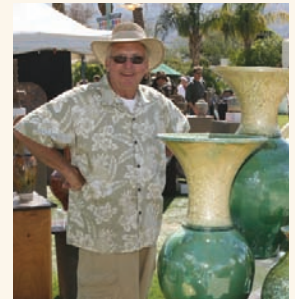
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## Artist Success Stories

### Distinguished Artists of La Quinta

Over the years La Quinta Arts Festival, Art Under the Umbrellas and Desert Plein Air among other Foundation art events introduced thousands of artists to the wonderful attributes of our La Quinta community – and recognizing the strong support from the City and appreciation of its residents, many of those artists made La Quinta their home.



To celebrate the accomplishments of resident Artists, the City bestows recognition in a public ceremony which includes engraving the Artist's name on a monument at the beautiful Civic Center Campus.



The Potter of La Quinta, Elliott Newton and Sculptor, Eric C. Johnson, both La Quinta Arts Festival artists and advisors are slated to be honored Saturday, **February 23, 2008 at 3pm** at La Quinta Library. The public is invited to attend. Please RSVP by **Thursday, February 21st** to **777-7090**.

#### Contact info:

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Phone: 760.564.1244 | Fax: 760.564.6844  
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# Artist Success Stories



*Jim Stallings continued*

Stallings, who resides in Hawthorne, Nevada states, "I feel a very positive energy working with La Quinta Arts Foundation. I know I am making life long friendships, and feel validation for my hard work and



commitment to the arts." He added that the MOCA event was, "a super success," and thanked LQAF for the contact, which equates to an impressive addition to his resume. Jim's fans can again look forward to seeing his work at the upcoming Festival.



## La Quinta Artists Awarded Commission for Tile Mural Project

**Nancy and Larry Cush,** Owners/Artists of Cush Decorative Arts Studio in La Quinta, are thrilled to be commissioned to design and create the Old Town La Quinta Tile Mural Project. "It gives us the opportunity to share our artwork with our community and increases the awareness of how important art is in our daily lives," states Nancy. The completed installation will be two hand painted tile murals with glaze colors and kiln fired to create beautiful and durable art pieces reminiscent of early California art tiles. The contracts are signed, and the artists are poised to start the murals, which should be completed in the next three months.

Mural #1 is a triptych for the Carmel Building. It is 10 ft. wide by 5.5 ft high. The background tile will be of a dark indigo blue, with the border framing around the three murals, a very dark blue. The

fountain in the center will be the same design as the Old Town Fountain, with an evening sunset of orange fading to blue high in the sky. The mountains are the ridge line of the mountains looking north from Old Town.

Mural # 2 is for the Los Altos Building, the coffee shop's patio wall. It is 7ft wide by 5 ft high, and will be placed and centered on the wall. The mountains are the ridgeline of the mountains looking northwest from Old Town, a glimpse of what was before the development of La Quinta, with the old date grove, ocotillo cactus, quail, and citrus.

The Old Town Murals will be the Cush's third big Valley project. Others include Five Tribal Themed Table Top Murals at Agua Caliente Tribal Center in Palm Springs, and "Tuscan Vineyard Landscape" at The Andalusia @ Coral Mountain,



La Quinta.

Nancy and Larry wish to extend "special thanks to Christi Salamone of La Quinta Arts Foundation for referring them to Marvin Investments Inc., Leslie Locken, Old Town La Quinta Property Manager for moving their proposal forward, La Quinta Community Services Commissions Staff and Committee, and The City of La Quinta Art in Public Places Program for their support of the arts."

Contact Larry and Nancy at [Cushtile@verizon.net](mailto:Cushtile@verizon.net)



# La Quinta Arts Festival 2008

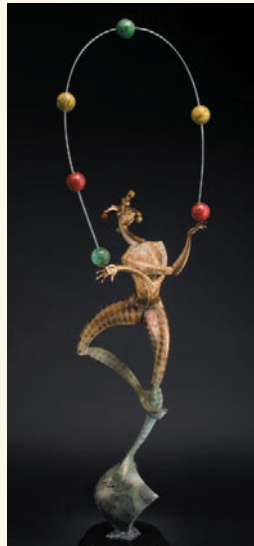
## Meet Festival Poster Artist James LaCasse

Sculptor James LaCasse was chosen as La Quinta Arts Festival's 2008 Poster Artist for his intriguing bronze jester entitled "Pallino." (We at LQAF found this piece particularly captivating, as we are all constantly juggling multiple balls in the air, hoping against hope to not drop any!)

As is true with so many artists who take a less than direct route to finding their craft, LaCasse, a Colorado native, earned

a degree in economics from Marquette University in Milwaukee before sculpture ultimately claimed his complete attention. James' amazing talent with bronze has established him as a reputable force in the field of sculpture since the early 1990s. His growing body of work draws upon diverse influences while shaping a unifying theme in his three-dimensional representations: the strength and the joy of the human spirit.

*"My sculptures focus on the simple, states LaCasse. "Only then do they build more layers of meaning in metaphor and symbolism. I feel that often I lose sight of the simple, which, is many times the important. My dreams, my feelings...the warmth of another, the flight of a bird; it is these things that can inspire and on which I can build. It is these things that are the basis of my sculpture and that I try to connect people to."*



*Pallino*



*Tres Mujeres*



*Tango*

La Quinta Arts Foundation members at the Friends (\$250) level are entitled to one complimentary poster as a benefit of membership. Posters to members at the Patron levels (\$500 and above) will be upgraded to a signed edition by the artist. These will be dispersed at the Retail Booth during Festival, or can be picked up at the LQAF office after March 24th.



**The entertainment** line-up for Festival 2008 will take on a distinct international flair. All of the performers are proven favorites of past Festival goers:

- **Dragon Knights** (Friday and Saturday). Truly amazing and magical stilt theater! Best described as culturally blended street performances, combining circus, theatre, performance and poetry, dream and technology!
- **Malcom Watson**, the Barefoot Dancing Violinist (all four days). Malcolm was born and raised in England. Back by popular demand, Malcolm will entertain in his flamboyant whimsical style.
- **Bill Keale** (all four days). A cousin of the legendary IZ (Isreale Kamakawiwo'ole), Bill will play his Hawaiian slack-key guitar and bring us romantic music from the islands and beyond.
- **Wolf's Robe**, the Flute Man (all four days). Weaves delicate melodies with his traditional Native American flutes in a style that celebrates tradition and the reference for the earth. He is deeply respectful of the legacy of his ancestors.
- **Oscar Reynolds** of Karumantra Music (all four days). Oscar is a Bolivian composer. He will play his haunting panpipes and intricate rhythmic patterns which blend Andean and African influences.

**Free** parking shuttles will operate throughout the Village of La Quinta transporting art patrons to and from the Festival site. This system worked great last year, and we thrilled to welcome RABOBANK as the official Festival Shuttle Sponsor!

La Quinta Arts Foundation members can look forward to receiving their complimentary tickets as a benefit of membership in early March. Visit [www.LQAF.com](http://www.LQAF.com) for details and updates on everything our upcoming Festival has to offer. SEE YOU THERE!!



*Anthony Hansen*

*Ali Golkar*



*Hermann/Lund*



WHERE &  
WHEN

**La Quinta  
Civic Center Campus  
March 13-16, 2008  
10 am to 5 pm**



*Adam Neeley*

# Scholarships: Making A Difference

## LQAF's Rising Star – James Galindo

James Galindo could well become the official representative for the success of La Quinta Arts Foundation's Visual Arts Scholarship program. The ongoing support from LQAF and the Ryan Ramirez Memorial Scholarship carried throughout his college career to graduation in 2004, and catapulted him into Laguna College of Art and Design's new MFA program.

Ever grateful for the support and encouragement, James maintains regular contact with us. Many will recall James' unbelievable painting of horses presented to Merv Griffin at LQAF's 25th Anniversary Gala last February. His incredible talent and passion for his craft, combined with proven dedication and hard work, more than validates LQAF's investment in this gifted artist.

In a recent online interview, Galindo related with obvious excitement the details of his graduate studies which began last fall:

"Central to the MFA curriculum is the mentor program wherein students are required to spend about 15 hours per semester with a mentor, most of which show out of galleries in LA) discussing their MFA thesis. I side-stepped the norm a little bit and chose a mentor who was not on their list, Jeremy Lipking. My school was flexible and worked with me to make this happen. Jeremy's studio is in Tarzana, about an hour and a half drive for me to get there, so I go to see him almost every week, about six to seven hours each visit. A typical visit with Lipking consists of about three hours talking and three hours of workshop time where we paint from a live model in his studio. The workshop is an exclusive perk-no other mentors are doing that for their students, so I guess I lucked out. Jeremy has been very generous with his time and resources, so I decided I would work with him next semester as well. One of the best classes I've had this semester is a seminar class with internationally-known art critic, Peter Frank. The class is called "Issues of Contemporary Realism," and meets every other Friday. The semester starts and ends with a critique of our thesis work, which is special because it's not often we students hear the thoughts of an acclaimed art critic with regard to our paintings. In between, we scout the art scene of Los Angeles visiting museums, galleries and attending lectures. I've met more people in the art world this semester than ever before in my life. I go to all the big openings in LA and mingle with the important names that will inevitably support me throughout my career. It's been a very exciting semester for me.



My school provides studio spaces for MFA students. I don't really have a place out here, so I usually sleep in my studio or in my car. It's rough, but on the other hand I get to use the money I have for other things like rolls of canvas, paints, brushes, models, studio lights, etc., and I don't have to work so I get to concentrate on my art. I go back to my parents' house in Palm Springs every other weekend, unless I get too busy".

La Quinta Arts Foundation is extremely proud to play a part in the ongoing story of James Galindo, and we eagerly look forward to all of the forthcoming chapters on his journey to becoming an accomplished world class artist.

## Diana Childers – Changing Lives through Art

Diana Childers is a two-time (so far) LQAF Scholarship Recipient (2006/07 & 2007/08) attending CSUSB. Having changed the specialization of her art major, previously graphic design and studio art, Diana has now declared Art Education as her intended major. This new life direction came about through a revelation she experienced when she embarked on a community service commitment at Hacienda Valdez last year.

### Hacienda Valdez Art Project

Hacienda Valdez in Desert Hot Springs is a California nonprofit providing care at the lowest possible cost regarding all aspects of the disease of alcoholism and drug addiction.

Diana volunteers at Hacienda Valdez on Saturday afternoons working with a women's art group. "Usually I give a demonstration of something I have learned from going to school to start off the group," she explains. "An example of that would be different techniques for using pastels and acrylics, explaining the color wheel, drawing techniques for depth, shape etc., doing something different each week. Then we pick a project and get to work. The work we do has a lot of variation on theme, content and materials. I have been doing this since March, and I have never done anything as rewarding."



"A portion of the work I have included is simplistic/adolescent (I hate to label...sorry) but is a big accomplishment for them considering where they come from (the streets and prison). Their work can be as moving to me or more so than all of the rest. The ladies open up more creatively week after week. Their usual stay there ranges from 30 days to one year, so some of them really get into it."

Diana chose Art Education as her calling because she believes she can be of maximum usefulness in that area. She plans to go for a teaching certificate or minor in administration and work to foster art programs, i.e. art therapy, within public and private agencies that deal with "at risk" and delinquent juveniles. Still a working artist as well, one of her pieces won First Place for abstract just a year ago.

Childers related that she was hesitant "to receive attention for doing something that I get so much fulfillment and joy from doing," but later relented because, "it's not about me, it's about the art and how it has the power to change people's lives."

La Quinta Arts Foundation is proud to support Diana's work at Hacienda Valdez with a \$500 grant for art supplies.



# Art. Culture. Life.

## IN MEMORIAM

La Quinta Arts Foundation fondly remembers treasured friends that have recently passed on:

**Merv Griffin** – Benefactor and Honorary Chairman, La Quinta Arts Festival.

**Seth Etinger** – Past Member and Benefactor (bequeathing LQAF \$5,000 in his will). Seth and his wife Tierney, who preceded him in death in 2004, were deeply interested in fostering the arts in La Quinta.

**Mary Ann Moore** – Past Member and Volunteer

**Jennifer Charles** – La Quinta Arts Festival Artist and Art Advisor

**Sharon Ostybe** – Active Member, Volunteer, and Umbrella Artist

**Gayla McGarry** – Past Member

## More Festival Art



*Doug Landreth*



*Sean Hill*



*Jason Napier*



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