

SEA OF CORTEZ EXHIBITION FIELD TRIP PRESS RELEASE

Thirty American artists from throughout the U.S. participated in a field trip to San Carlos, Sonora, Mexico, from March 19 - 26, 2011 to produce a body of work for a museum exhibition entitled The Sea of Cortez, which is scheduled to premiere in 2013 at The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Art Institute.

The Sea of Cortez field trip was organized by David J. Wagner, Ph.D. Leading the field trip was Richard C. Brusca, Ph.D., who is widely recognized as an authority on Sea of Cortez studies. Dr. Brusca serves as a member of the Science Faculty at the University of Arizona, and recently retired from the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum where he directed the ASDM Press and served as ASDM Senior Director of Conservation & Science. Field Trip transportation was made possible by The Susan Kathleen Black Foundation and Glenn and Martha Thompson.



Participating artists included: Linda Bittner, Carel Pieter Brest van Kempen, DeVere Burt, Andrew Denman, Kim Diment, Kim Duffek, Cathy Ferrell, Susan Fisher (who also serves as Director of The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Art Institute), Susan Fox, Mary Garrish, Ann Geise, Shawn Gould, Mary Helsaple, Heiner Hertling, John Kobald, Molly Moore, Deian Moore, John Pitcher, Don Rambadt, Paul Rhymer, Rebecca Richman, Carolyn Thome, Christine Sarazin, Rachelle Siegrist, Wes Siegrist, Martha Thompson, Sue Westin, Ronnie Williford, and Nicholas Wilson. (John Agnew, who had to withdraw from the field trip for medical attention, will still participate in the exhibit.)

The Sea of Cortez exhibition will include *plein air* paintings, botanical illustrations, sketch books with journal entries, wildlife paintings and sculptures, photographs, and other media. Serving as Curator for the exhibition is David J. Wagner, Ph.D., who also serves as Curator/Tour Director for Art and the

Animal of The Society of Animal Artists, and Blossom ~ Art of Flowers sponsored by The Susan Kathleen Black Foundation.

The Sea of Cortez exhibition was chosen for display at The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Art Institute because the sea is central to its mission, as explained on its Sonoran Desert Studies webpage: "the Sea of Cortez divides the land portion of the Sonoran Desert into two halves, the Baja California Peninsula on the west, and the states of Arizona and Sonora [Mexico] to the east . . . The coast of The Sea of Cortez (also known as the Gulf of California) is characterized by 300 estuaries and other wetlands . . . a unique ecosystem that is home to a rich community of plant and animal life. They are key components of the Gulf's marine food web, generating primary production and releasing nutrients to the sea, and serving as breeding and nursery grounds for numerous fish, invertebrate, and bird species, and even some marine mammals and reptiles."

The Sea of Cortez exhibition will focus on the flora and fauna that inhabit the environments around San Carlos, Mexico, including the sea's incredible marine life, the region's desert topography, the Estero el Soldado mangroves (one of the most pristine lagoons left in the Gulf), Nacapule Canyon, and scenic overlooks such as Mirador with sweeping vistas, sheer cliffs and the sea below.

The Sea of Cortez is available for display in 2013 and 2014 at museums nationwide. The exhibition is being produced by David J. Wagner, L.L.C. For further information phone (414) 221-6878 or email davidjwagnerllc@yahoo.com.