

## Press Release

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Arts and the Park, Light on the Reef

**June 9-13, 2015**

“The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Arts and the Park” is a new partnership presented by the Entrada Institute, Inc., in partnership with Capitol Reef National Park, Capitol Reef Natural History Association, Gallery 24, Robbers Roost, The Torrey Gallery, Torrey Town, Utah Travel Council, Utah Water Color Society, Utrecht/Blick Art Supplies, Utah Arts and Museums; and youth arts educators Victoria Lyons, Michael Moonbird and Jen Lopez from Bad Dog Arts. Arts and the Park “Light on Reef” is intended to be an experiential plein air event for the whole family; it celebrates first steps into arts education and natural sciences while celebrating life-long learning and the creative spirit of the people and the place that is the Colorado Plateau.

This year the program was extended from three to five days and includes a new free Adult Water-Color Indoctrination workshop for the public on Friday from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM at Robbers Roost for those interested in learning more about painting with Maura Naughton. “With digital photography embedded in our smartphones we can all take a picture, so why paint? Well, I’m passionate about painting. The simple exercise of painting what you see with pigment colored water is a form of self-expression we can all do and taking time to really LOOK at what you are painting creates a lifetime of memories for you to share. You will always remember where you sat, what the weather was like, who you were with, bugs, animals and whatever else nature threw at you,” said Naughton. In addition, after the Friday night main event, artists will be staying over an extra day to participate in a Saturday workshop with Sherry Meidell, the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Arts and the Park grand prize winner. “The artists love it here and wanted to catch an extra retreat day refining their skills. I’m so pleased to have been selected to instruct the workshop,” said Meidell. Her work is featured on this year’s event t-shirts.

Arts and the Park, Light on the Reef program honors the life and work of V. Douglas Snow, for his profound impact in expressing a sense of place through both the abstract landscapes he painted of Utah, the West and Southwest; and for his living legacy as an educator. Gallery stroll will be taking place on Wednesday evening this year from 5:00 – 7:00 pm and will feature artists and happenings at both The Torrey Gallery and Gallery 24. “The Torrey Gallery enthusiastically supports the Arts and the Park programming. We are proud to represent Utah artists who paint plein air. We invite everyone to visit our gallery to see some exceptional Capitol Reef area art,” said Larry and Cathy Bagley. Gallery 24 is featuring several new artists this year including a ceramicist, and two jewelers. This month’s artist profile is a mono-type show by Nancy Green. “We will all be on hand to participate and support the event again this year. Our own Pat Priebe is supporting the judging, Diane and Bill Barrett are co-directing youth programs, and both Paula Swain and Nina Flow Law will be painting in the plein air. We encourage the community to participate in all the great activities being offered this week,” said Nancy Green.

Susan Snow and Frank McEntire, former executive director of the Utah Arts Council and editor of *Final Light, The Life and Art of V. Douglas Snow* will be joining Leah McGinnis, Superintendent of Capitol Reef National Park; and members of the Entrada Institute Board for five days of “Arts and the Park” on June 9 through 13, culminating in a silent auction of those works to benefit continued local arts programming. Youth exhibition receptions will be held on Saturday afternoon from 4:30 – 5:00pm. “I am so pleased to see the continuing opportunity the event provides for local youth and their entire families to participate in the arts together,” said Susan Snow.

“Capitol Reef National Park is excited to be hosting the youth events as well as the 25 plus plein air artists of the Utah Water Color Society, and several local artists, again this year,” said Leah McGinnis, Superintendent of Capitol Reef National Park and Event Co-Chair. Youth experimental art events will be held at Ripple Rock Nature Center in the Park in two age groups. Activities include painting, printmaking, earthworks design, and monumental sculptural art inspired by the work of Andy Goldsworthy. Those not pre-registered for activities can still join in the following activities with their teens and younger children. Youth registration forms can be found on the Entrada Institute web-site [www.entradainstitute.org](http://www.entradainstitute.org).

**The main event at Cougar Ridge Lodge is 5:30 – 8:30 pm on Friday.** The Capitol Reef’s Band will entertain the crowd providing time to see and bid on the watercolor paintings created by participating plein air artists over the previous week as well as other great pieces submitted to the backroom for sale. There will also be an opportunity to learn about art history in Capitol Reef National Park, the art and life of V. Douglas Snow and celebrate the judge’s announcements for the 2015 winners of the V. Douglas Snow Awards. Cocktails and hors d’oeuvres will be served. Tickets (\$10 per person) are available at [www.artsandthepark.org](http://www.artsandthepark.org) or at the door. “Special thanks to our ongoing patrons, donors, event sponsors and volunteers which make Arts and the Park possible along with so many other seasonal events,” said Marci Milligan, Event Co-Chair.

The full schedule is posted in today’s paper for reference. For more information call Marci Milligan at 801-509-1289.

The Utah Watercolor Society ardently endorses the annual "Arts and the Park: Light on the Reef" event, as the only plein air experience dedicated to water media in Utah. The event organizers' committed and tireless efforts to "turn out the town" in support of this arts event, left last year's painters feeling like visiting royals. The UWS also welcomes the event's commitment to introducing the next generation of artists to the exciting world of creativity and art making.

Colleen Reynolds, Utah Watercolor Society President, 2015/2016.