

Celebration of Fine Art



Scottsdale, AZ ~ USA

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THREE CELEBRATION OF FINE ART ARTISTS ELECTED TO THE NATIONAL SCULPTURE SOCIETY

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Three artists from the Celebration of Fine Art, an annual fine art event which takes place every winter in Scottsdale, Arizona, were recently elected as members of the prestigious National Sculpture Society based in New York City. Curt Mattson, Ken Newman and Vala Ola join this exclusive society of highly acclaimed sculptors from across the country.

The National Sculpture Society is the oldest organization of professional sculptors in the United States. Leading U.S. sculptors and architects founded the NSS in the 19th century to “spread the knowledge of good sculpture”. Today, the NSS continues to encourage excellence in representational sculpture and their publications, *Sculpture Review* and *NSS Bulletin*, keep members and friends of sculpture abreast of the latest developments. The society runs many programs dedicated to encouraging good sculpture, and to educate young artists in the medium. Visit www.nationalsculpture.org for more information.

Curt Mattson has been a participant in the Celebration of Fine Art since 2003. His works capture the feeling and experience of the American horseman and buckaroo. His passion for his art is driven by his love of horses. Born in California, Curt spent years training and showing horses and working on ranches across the U.S. and Canada. He began sculpting in 1983 when he was inspired by an image he saw of a bronze by Cowboy Artists’ of America (CAA) artist, Grant Speed. Over the years he has been fortunate to have been mentored by many members of the CAA and other well-known sculptors of today. Their generous tutelage and Curt’s passion to excel in his art form have blended together to make him a truly respected artist by both his peers and collectors from around the world. He is known for his historical accuracy as well as the great emotion that each piece evokes. Curt, who currently resides in Peoria, Arizona says “There is not a day that goes by that I do not thank the Lord for allowing me to sculpt.”

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Ken Newman joined the Celebration of Fine Art in 2002. His extraordinary wood carvings and bronze sculptures evoke a respect for nature and capture the struggles of man. Ken says “Inspired by traveling in a 5th wheel eight months of each year, my sculptures are a reflection of personal and societal interpretations of nature and man’s interaction within the environment. As man becomes distanced from the natural world, I hope to capture a unique view of nature, where personal discovery becomes a focal point.” An avid outdoorsman, Ken Newman grew up along California’s Redwood Coast, where at an early age he developed an awareness of nature and a passion for wood. Although each of his wood and bronze sculptures capture the essence of its subject, they express his reaction to conditions, forces or people in society. In Ken’s sculptures, there is always more than just a beautiful figure of wildlife – the composition and finish - all direct the viewer’s eyes and mind to a broader perception of nature and man. Ken currently resides in Cambridge, Idaho.

Vala Ola has been sculpting at the Celebration of Fine Art since 2005. Vala is an artist who passionately and relentlessly seeks to create art works that show her dedication to excellence. Her classical training in Europe is reflected in her art and her figurative bronze sculptures are noted for their depth of expression and emotion. The high quality of her sculpted form has earned her great respect among art appreciators. Vala was born and raised in Iceland, she has lived in the US since 1994 and now calls Scottsdale, Arizona her home. Her inspiration is derived from her observation of life; even the most mundane circumstance from everyday life will spark an idea. Vala says, “The bronze gives me an opportunity to mold the sense of life into an everlasting form. From the force of a muscle in motion to a tender human emotion expressed. That, along with the abstract quality of composition, is what inspires me.”

Each of these artists are honored and humbled to be elected by their peers into the National Sculpture Society. The Celebration of Fine Art is proud to have three members of this prestigious Society participating in our 19th annual fine art event. Visitors can meet these artists, and 97 more, beginning January 16 through March 29, 2009. This unique venue is one where art lovers have the opportunity to visit with the artists and watch the creative process in action. The sights, smells and sound of art work in process delights the senses as one strolls through the ample aisles.

The show is open 10 am to 6 pm seven days a week beginning Friday, January 16, through Sunday, March 29, 2009. The Celebration of Fine Art is located in Scottsdale, AZ, USA on the east side Scottsdale Rd, just south of the Loop 101 (Exit 34) in the original “big white tents”. Ticket price is \$8.00 for adults and \$7.00 for seniors and military. Children under 12 are admitted at no charge. The ticket price is good for all 10 weeks of the show. All works of art are available for purchase. A café on premises serves light fare. For more information on the show and participating artists, visit www.celebrateart.com

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