



Tuesday, July 14, 2009

Contact: George Palovich
623/972-0635, ext 24 8:00am—noon
gpalovich@wvam.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**"Aspects of Nature": The Landscape Art of Pat Berger
December 19, 2008 through February 1, 2009**

Pat Berger is a Los Angeles artist who also lives and works in Phoenix. A solo exhibit at the West Valley Art Museum, in Surprise, "Aspects of Nature" will feature her large scale paintings from 1990 to 2008. The California landscape, deserts of Arizona, lush plant life of Costa Rica and the fall colors from gardens in Japan have all had their own spiritual and psychological effect on the artist. Known for her series in the mid-eighties on the Homeless In Our Cities, her work is soon to be included in the "LA Art and Artists Before 1980", a comprehensive encyclopedic volume to acknowledge the legacy of a full range of individuals and entities whose lives and work in Los Angeles enabled the city to become the international contemporary art capital it is today. It will be published this year by the California/International Art Foundation (C/IAF) founded by Lyn Keinholz in 1981.

West Valley Art Museum Curator George Palovich says; "It might be easy to dismiss Berger's paintings as just another take on landscape realism; but that conclusion would be an incorrect one. The paintings are as much about the art of painting as they are a material representation of nature's reality. One can see the space and attempt to enter it, but at the same time there are these webs of paint film that make one aware of the flat surface and how it is manipulated Cezanne-like from one edge to the other. A consummate master is here moving our eye about the canvas and in and out of forms while still giving us an emotional lift that belies what would otherwise be an academic exercise. We look, we ponder and the next time we are somewhere that is similar to the painting's image we will look harder, longer and with more emotion than we ever have before. Isn't this what great Art should do?"

Of her own work Pat Berger has said: "The deserts have shown me cacti that I painted often, and I began to feel a psychological feeling from the plantscapes. I seem to want to paint more complex, close-ups of these plants, as though I want to be in them myself or have the viewer walk into the painting. In a way, it is what life is about for me. Sometimes it feels chaotic, and you want to be able to pull it all together and that's what I try to do with my nature pieces. I also become fascinated by the patterns created on the plant life, especially when enhanced by shadows in the early morning or late afternoon, at times almost creating subliminal Imagery.

I am deeply influenced by the environment, the changing moods and colors that affect our environment and our desire to see beyond physical limits. Now, while spending more time in Arizona, where I have a second studio, my work is going through another

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metamorphosis. The interplay of light and shadow in the desert vistas provide endless fascination.

I believe I have been on a wonderful journey through life and art. The one cannot be separated from the other. Life is the sum of all my experiences. I eagerly await what the next chapter will bring."

Museum Members' reception for the artist will be held at the Museum January 9.



"Rebirth" acrylic 66 in x 88 in by Pat Berger



"Dawning" acrylic 60 in x 72 in by Pat Berger



"Forest Mystique" acrylic 60 in x 88 in by Pat Berger

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