



17420 North Avenue of the Arts | Surprise AZ 85374  
623.972.0635 | fax.623.972.0456 | wvam.org

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**"Passionate Vision"  
The Paintings of Joella Jean Mahoney  
August 1 through November 30, 2008**

Sometimes an artist comes to a specific place geographically and it happens that they experience a kind of epiphany that changes their career. When Joella Jean Mahoney stepped off the train in Flagstaff, Arizona as a student at Northern Arizona University in 1951, she knew that Arizona would be her new home. Georgia O'Keefe was mesmerized by New Mexico. Joella would find her inspiration here in the mountains and deserts of our state and make her home in Sedona.

Mahoney has achieved what few artists manage in a lifetime; that of an international reputation and the admiration and respect of her colleagues in art as well as countless students inspired by her teaching in Universities and workshops. Her work is known through the Art in the Embassies Program sponsored by the U.S. State Department. She was featured in a three -part television series aired on educational television across the country.

When looking at Joella's work one becomes aware immediately of the organization of form, emotionally sparked by a profound sensitivity to Nature's vibrant energies. The application of paint and color intensifies the viewer's perception making the paintings far beyond a pretty rendering of the view. The experience is deeper and more mysterious, especially when a human figure begins to emerge from the landscape. The figures have a sensuous affinity for the earth and in the end we long to be part of it as it was eons ago.

This expression combines with a marked sense of place, which is to say even with a vista abstracted in Mahoney's painting, there is a sense of somewhere specific that you feel you are looking at and occupying, especially in the case of her large works that extend to ten feet in length.

This is an exhibition the visitor can enjoy on many levels.

West Valley Art Museum is open 10 AM to 4 PM Tuesday through Sunday. The Museum is located at West Bell Road and 114th Avenue. With nine exhibition galleries, a Museum Store, *Café On The Avenue*, and regularly scheduled education programs, the Museum welcomes all visitors. There is an admission charge for non-members. \$7 adults, \$2 students, ages 5 and under are free.

**Oil paintings by**

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**Joella Jean Mahoney**



“Freedom Landscape” oil on canvas



“Renewal” oil on canvas



“Summertime” oil on canvas



“Creation” oil on canvas

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