

Museum of the West planning new exhibits

BY ALEX GALLAGHER
Progress Staff Writer

Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West recently was named one of the top western museums by True West magazine for the eighth consecutive year.

Delighted by the honor, the museum team plans to bring in new exhibits and keep the good times rolling.

"It's just absolutely remarkable, you know, given that we're relatively still young and growing and to receive that kind of an honor speaks to all of the hard work of the many people who have dedicated their lives and put their hearts into to bring us the great collections and exhibitions that we have," said Dr. Patricia Loscher, assistant director of collections, exhibitions and research.

"Every story that the exhibitions tell has many, many people behind it from the teams that design and install the ex-



Tricia Loscher, assistant director of collections, exhibitions and research stands near "Shepherd in Monument Valley," painted in 1928 by artist Marjorie Thomas. (David Minton/Progress Staff Photographer)

hibits to the people who collected, people tell," she added. "The visitors who come here they want

to see something and take away something of the West – whether it's the historic past or the present, or, in some cases, the future – and so it's really exciting to be able to tell these stories about the great American West in so many different ways."

Loscher has launched some contemporary displays, the most recent being an exhibition titled "Kids In Focus."

"We've got a great show up right now that just opened called 'Kids in Focus' with a local organization and its children, who have taken the photographs and reflected upon their lives and it's a beautiful exhibition on display upstairs in our gallery," Loscher said.

Lining some of the museum walls leading from the showcase of 1,400 saddles, spurs, cowboy gear and other Old West objects towards the gift shop are paintings by female artists in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

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2 Scottsdale churches hosting special concerts

PROGRESS NEWS STAFF

Two Scottsdale churches are holding special musical programs next weekend.

"Arts at the Rocks" at the Desert Hills Presbyterian Church, 34605 N. Tom Darlington Drive, will kick off a new concert season with a performance by Urban Nocturnes at 4 p.m. Oct. 8.

And the Central Arizona Guild of Organists and La Casa de Cristo Lutheran Church are holding a free hymn sing at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 9, at the church, 6300 E. Bell Road, Scottsdale.

The hour-long "Hymns for Him: a Hymn Festival Sing-Along" will feature guild members playing La Casa de Cristo's 91-rank Berghaus Pipe Organ, which, with its 5067 pipes, is among the largest pipe organs in the Southwest. A reception will follow the hymn sing. For more information, call the church at 480-948-1234, or email Jeremy Peterman at jpeterman@lacasadecristo.com.

Urban Nocturnes comprises six professional classical musicians whose mission is to "share their love of artistic ingenu-



Urban Nocturnes, a modular chamber music ensemble, will perform this Saturday at Desert Hills Presbyterian Church in Scottsdale. (Special to the Progress)

ity and collaboration and to demonstrate music's universal power to engage and enliven the mind and soul."

The performance will feature Urban Nocturnes's violinist Karen Sinclair, violist Christopher McKay, cellist Melita

Hunsinger, and flutist Viviana Cumplido Wilson, along with guest violinist Trista Wong.

Urban Nocturnes is a modular chamber music ensemble that an artist-in-residence position at Trinity Cathedral in

downtown Phoenix, where they perform a series of chamber music concerts every season and provide musical contributions for a number of the church's liturgical services and cultural events.

In addition, Urban Nocturnes musicians perform at various other venues around town and collaborate with other Valley musicians. They have made numerous appearances on the Downtown Chamber Series, Downstairs at The Orpheum Theater series, Musician Encounters series at Mountain View Presbyterian Church, and have played at Lost Leaf Bar, the Musical Instrument Museum, St. Andrew's Bach Society and at retirement communities.

Through the Phoenix Symphony's outreach programs, many of the group's members have played chamber music together at various hospitals, hospice care, and homeless facilities in the Valley.

Their programming encompasses a wide variety of combinations of their instruments and presents standard works of the classical repertoire, lesser known works and music by today's composers.

Information: urbannocturnes.com. 📍

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"Right now, we have a teaser exhibition of women of the west from the Fran and Elliot collection of women artists," Loscher said. "This teaser show premieres 20 or so artworks and will be part of a much larger exhibition of these women artists from the late 1800s, early 20th century in Arizona who were here painting.

That show is the first of its kind and is also one of the largest collections, if not the largest collection of early Arizona women artists."

The full show in 2024 will feature nearly 300 pieces of women-made paintings and sculptures, some of which are inspired by Indigenous people's artwork.

Loscher says she is eager to open this exhibition, explaining, "I'm anxious to get it up and 2024 seems like so far away. It's not but it's a great way to at least show some of these works."

The museum will also be adding new pieces of Hopi pottery created by Nampeyo – a famed Hopi visual artist who is regarded as the "Matriarch of Hopi Pottery" – gifted to the museum to its renowned Canvas of Clay: Hopi Pottery Masterworks from The Allan and Judith Cooke Collection

which will be added to the gallery.

The museum also added an exclusive book to its gift shop titled "The Call of Beauty: Masterworks by Nampeyo," which focuses on the artist's life.

One being cleared for a new installation is the Paul Calle exhibition, which shows images painted of NASA's first man on the moon project. Paintings of fur traders and Native Americans will be replaced with an exhibition of photographs taken by famed photographer Scott Baxter of western ranches.

With exciting exhibits on the horizon, Loscher is buoyant about the future.

"I think it's a wonderful reminder that we still strive to be the west's most western town in terms of the ideologies and mythologies of the American West and what the west means to many people," she said.

"I think throughout the museum, we find little gems and ways to talk about that and through our docent program, we find ways to connect the history here in Scottsdale to like the bigger West vision of the West." Information: Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West is located at 3830 N. Marshall Way. scottsdalemuseumwest.org 480-686-9539

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ish word for loneliness and *valegría* is the word for joy, so they squarely fit into certain emotional categories or expressions," Chacón said, adding:

"The reason for that is when people would gather to play flamenco socially, it was a form through which they expressed their angst in their personal living experience in the community because it formed in a place where people lived in very tight quarters and they would come out in the patio and play music together."

Chacón will be joined by singer-guitarist Gaetano, guitars Misael Barraza Diaz, flutist Max Perrault and fellow dancer Martin Gaxiola — whom Chacón has worked with for over two decades.

They will be performing several new numbers as well as an altered version of a number that some fans may recognize from last year's performances.

"All of the different song forms are traditional and there will be some improvisation to some solos in the show," Chacón said. "However, there is a piece that I am repeating from last year, but it was created around what my aunt was going through and then also exploring kind of her situ-

ation in parallel with what I had experienced with my dad."

Because of the compelling nature of her story, Chacón is excited to share her experiences at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts.

"Fans can expect an emotional journey and they can expect to be taken into an entirely different way of experiencing the space around them through the sounds of the guitar as well as the singing," she said.

She added that the overall performance "is so emotional and has such a huge depth and range" and that those ranges go from "a highly joyful and celebratory to deeply, deeply, profoundly sad, the sounds of the percussion."

"It sort of permeates the sensory experience," she added.

If You Go:

What: Flamenco Intimo
When: 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays beginning Friday, Oct. 7.
Where: Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts 7380 E. Second St.
Cost: \$30.50
Info: scottsdalearts.org

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