

CELEBRATING ART IN LAS VEGAS

Fine art isn't a major part of the Las Vegas landscape, but it does exist beyond the fine art galleries at The Bellagio and City Center if you know where to look for it. There is a thriving community of local artists who create masterful works at a variety of price points. For art enthusiasts, here is a guided overview on a few notable local artists and festivals you won't want to miss.

One of the region's largest art festivals is the Summerlin® Festival of Arts, celebrating its 23rd year at Downtown Summerlin® Oct. 13-14. Headlining the festival are more than 100 fine artists and craftspeople from throughout the southwest who will showcase and sell their original creations, with almost 40% of festival participants from Southern Nevada. A juried show, the Summerlin Festival of Arts features only those artists who have been selected by a panel of local arts experts, ensuring a high standard of quality reflective in everything from fine art to sculpture, pottery, jewelry and more.

"Our 2018 roster includes many popular and returning artists, including celebrated local artist Niki Sands along with photographer Bill Kutcher," said Danielle Bisterfeldt, VP-marketing, Summerlin. "Media include oil, watercolor, pottery, sculpture, photography, glass and jewelry – all in a mix of contemporary and classic designs. There's something for everyone at all price points. The festival is free and open to the general public."

A walk through Bobby Wheat Contemporary Art at Downtown Summerlin will leave you inspired. Now in his eighth year as a self-published artist and gallery owner, Wheat has captured the attention of critics, collectors, and colleagues around the world representing fine art photography in its most raw and organic state.

"Las Vegas in my home," stated Wheat. "One of the biggest compliments is seeing people's reactions to my art first-hand. I'm in my gallery as often as possible. Being able to share my passion with my customers is a dream come true."

Tanti Hill is a local artist who pulls her inspiration from nature for her clay and ceramics creations. She has been a participant in a variety of local and national art events including as a cherished vendor in the Summerlin Festival of Arts for 20-plus years. Her creations include sculptures, wall pieces, torsos and smaller items including bowls and hearts. Each creation is custom made and Raku fired, making it a truly unique and memorable piece.

"Clay allows me to be creative and express my feelings and emotions," stated Hill. "I like to create work that inspires others the way nature inspires me."

Darren Kensington is a 24-year veteran as a custom jeweler. He traveled the world to source exquisite gemstones and to pull inspiration for his designs. He now calls Las Vegas home where he opened his business, Lyght Jewelry and Fine Art. He continues to travel the country to showcase his creations at a variety of well-known art shows and is a third year participant in the Summerlin Festival of Arts. At this year's festival, Kensington will demonstrate his craft at a jeweler's bench where he will fabricate and forge silver and gold bracelets, rings and other jewelry for all passersby to see and enjoy.

“I’ve been creating my designs since I was 20-years-old,” stated Kensington. “It’s a passion that’s been instilled in me and one I enjoy sharing with others. Las Vegas is a perfect location for me to showcase my masterpieces with locals and the vast assortment of tourists who visit annually.”

For additional information on the Summerlin Festival of Arts, where all of these local artists will be showcased, please visit www.summerlin.com.