



## CATALINA ISLAND CONSERVANCY

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### **8<sup>th</sup> Annual *Catalina: The Wild Side* Art Show and Sale Draws Art Fans *Sale of Works of 11 Nationally Recognized Plein Air Painters Grossed Over \$190,000***

NEWPORT BEACH, CA – Art lovers filled the second-floor ballroom of the newly completed Newport Harbor Yacht Club on Sunday, October 22, for the Catalina Island Conservancy's annual *Catalina: The Wild Side* Art Show and Sale, where they admired and purchased the works of the 11 nationally recognized plein air artists who showcased their interpretations of Catalina Island's wildlands, Avalon and Two Harbors.

Newcomer Colin Page joined this year's roster of returning artists: Cindy Baron, Brian Blood, John Cosby, Don Demers, Kathleen Dunphy, Andy Evansen, Debra Huse, Laurie Kersey, Michael Obermeyer and Joe Paquet.

"We extend our thanks to the artists as well as the Catalina Island Conservancy supporters and art lovers who joined us at this spectacular location. The *Catalina: The Wild Side* Art Show was one of the highest grossing in its history, raising a gross of over \$190,000 to support the programs of the Conservancy," said Tony Budrovich, Conservancy president and CEO.

Proceeds from the sales of the artworks benefit the Conservancy's conservation, education and recreation programs and support the Conservancy's permanent collection of plein air art that documents the organization's conservation efforts and progress in habitat restoration. Paintings in the Conservancy's collection will be displayed in rotating exhibits at the new Trailhead visitor center in Avalon, opening this year.

"The *Catalina: The Wild Side* Art Show is unique because it allows us to connect with those who love Catalina Island through nationally recognized artists' views of the landscape which represent the conservation side of the Conservancy's work," said Conservancy board member and event chair Victoria Seaver Dean.

Artists traveled to Catalina Island several times during the year to paint in the plein air style, which is art created in nature and capturing the light in the moment, a tradition that has been taking place on Catalina Island for over 100 years.

Remaining works are still available for purchase through an online sale that will run through 11:59 PM PST on Saturday, November 17. The full collection of over 100 paintings (including paintings available for purchase) is available at [www.catalinaconservancy.org](http://www.catalinaconservancy.org).

Special thanks to this year's Corporate Partners: Capital Group, Bluewater Grill and Newport Harbor Yacht Club.

#### **About the Conservancy**

Formed in 1972, the Catalina Island Conservancy is one of California's oldest land trusts. Its mission is to be a responsible steward of its lands through a balance of conservation, education and recreation. Through its ongoing efforts, the Conservancy protects the magnificent natural and cultural heritage of Santa Catalina Island, stewarding approximately 42,000 acres of land and more than 60 miles of rugged shoreline. It provides access to the Island's wildlands and 50 miles of biking and nearly 165 miles of hiking opportunities within its road and trail system. The Conservancy conducts educational outreach through two nature centers, its Wrigley Memorial & Botanic Garden and guided experiences in the

Island's rugged interior. Twenty miles from the mainland, the Island is a treasure trove of historical and archaeological sites. It also contains numerous rare and endangered animals and plants. The Island is home to over 60 endemic species – and counting – found only on Catalina. For additional information, please visit [www.catalinaconservancy.org](http://www.catalinaconservancy.org).



The 2018 *Catalina: The Wild Side* Artists at Newport Harbor Yacht Club. From left to right: Andy Evansen, Joe Paquet, Don Demers, Cindy Baron, Michael Obermeyer, Debra Huse, Colin Page, Kathleen Dunphy, John Cosby, Laurie Kersey and Brian Blood. Photo by Robb Rosenfeld.



Artist John Cosby with his painting "View from the Wharf" and collector Jim Connelly. Photo by Robb Rosenfeld.



Artist Don Demers with collector Mimi Jones and guest. Photo by Robb Rosenfeld.



Three generations of collectors in the Collins family show off their new acquisitions painted by artist Debra Huse. From left: Sheila Collins, Erin Kennedy and sons, Debra Huse and Tim Collins. Photo by Robb Rosenfeld.



First time *Catalina: The Wild Side* Artist, Colin Page, discusses his work with show attendees. Photo by Robb Rosenfeld.