



CATALINA ISLAND CONSERVANCY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Oct. 28, 2015

Contact: Laura Mecoy
310.546.5860
laura@mecoy.net

Catalina: The Wild Side Art Show & Sale Attracts Crowd Event Helps Fund Catalina Island Conservancy's Programs and More

BALBOA, CA –Art lovers perused and purchased the works of eight nationally-recognized plein air painters at the Catalina Island Conservancy's 5th Annual *Catalina: The Wild Side Art Show and Sale* on Sunday at the Newport Harbor Yacht Club.

The guests were eager to view the works of artists John Cosby, Andy Evansen, Kim Lordier, Joe Paquet, Jesse Powell, Ron Rencher, Brian Stewart and Matt Smith and spend time speaking with the artists about their paintings. Several guests took advantage of the Priority Admission, which was offered for the first time this year to allow guests to enter the event, meet the artists and purchase art an hour before the doors opened to the general public.

"We are so fortunate to have such wonderful artists and such beautiful works of art to offer our guests," said Ann M. Muscat, PhD, Conservancy president and CEO. "These works of art offer rare and beautiful portraits of the Conservancy's protection and restoration of the Island."

As it has since its inception in 2011, *Catalina: The Wild Side Art Show and Sale* only features art that depicts Catalina Island, and many works had a special focus on the "wild side," the 42,000 acres of lands stewarded by the Catalina Island Conservancy. Each of the artists who participated in the event had visited the Island to paint nature while being in nature. Their works captured the Island's wild side, its quiet coves, expansive beaches and the quaint streets and shops of Avalon.

In a unique use of art for conservation's sake, proceeds from the show benefit the Conservancy and support its conservation, education and recreation programs, as well as maintain and grow a permanent collection of plein air art that documents the organization's conservation efforts and progress in habitat restoration. Selections of paintings acquired during previous shows are on display for the public in the Conservancy's Nature Center in Avalon Canyon.

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 an airport and 50 miles of biking and nearly 150 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 60 species – and counting – that are found only on Catalina. For additional information, please visit www.catalinaconservancy.org.



Plein air artist Joe Paquet explains his paintings to guests at *Catalina: The Wild Side Art Show & Sale*. Photo by Robb Rosenfeld