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8th Annual Art Show for the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve

The 8th Annual Art Show of the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve will celebrate its opening night July 9, 2005, from 7 pm to 9 pm. The free show will run through September 24, 2005 in the Ecological Reserve's Visitor Center, open Thursday through Sunday of each week. The exhibit will feature photographs and paintings depicting scenes of the Reserve.

Sponsored by Hart Winery and Hansen Vineyards, 40% of the proceeds from sales will benefit the Third-Grade Education Program through the Santa Rosa Plateau Foundation, a California non-profit organization.

The Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve is located four miles southwest of the 15 Freeway, along Clinton Keith Road. Protected for its endangered and threatened species of both plants and animals, the Reserve features over 30 miles of trails, some of which are open to horseback riding and mountain biking. Open every day of the year from sunrise to sunset, visitors can spend an entire day in nature for the cost of \$2 for adults and \$1 for children 2-12.

The Third-Grade Education Program provides a free field trip to third graders from local school districts in Riverside County. Trained volunteers guide students over a mile-long trail and help them conduct indoor activities in the Visitor Center. Proceeds from this event will help pay for buses, maintenance and student study materials.

Featured artists include Will Dunningway, Tony Caltabiano, Betty Pilley and Enwood Thompson. Perennial favorite Enwood Thompson returns with promising new works in his unique water-color style that evokes both the southwest of Diego Rivera and the lively skies of El Greco. One of Enwood's newest works is featured on the invitations and fliers of this year's event.

Watercolorist Betty Pilley sold 17 of her paintings in last year's exhibit. A disciple of Hemet's Jerry Regur, Betty strives to keep her paintings simple and fresh-looking. An avid bird-watcher, she plans to include renderings of birds in this year's show.

Last year's top grosser, Will Dunningway says about his work, "It has been my effort to bring the viewer these sublime images in the Santa Rosa Plateau gallery. The images reach across three different centuries and tell us about a time past, now newly examined and interpreted. My work is about beautiful natural things, with a sensibility of a 19th century eye, but layered in new meaning to the 21st century viewer."

Tony Caltabiano is a professional fine art photographer who has spent years focusing on the Santa Rosa Plateau for the main body of his work. In describing his work, he says, "I use a variety of cameras to capture the unique nuances of the area, portraying them in a haunting and spiritual light." Subtle uses of coloring surprise viewers who at first are drawn to what seem black and white landscapes. His work can be viewed at www.higherplacestudio.com.

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