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Indian Wells Arts Festival, three days of art & entertainment

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Published:
Thursday, March 12, 2015 8:19 PM Pacific

Amid the 200 acclaimed artist exhibitions at the 13th annual Indian Wells Arts Festival, April 3, 4, and 5, festival-goers will be treated to a fantastic entertainment line-up ranging from live music performances to artist demonstrations from glass-blowing, rock-sculpting, textile-weaving, painting, pottery-throwing, and a Larger-than-Life mural creation.

Returning for their 13th year in performance at the festival is Latin guitar and jazz fusion band, Incendio – World Guitar. The Independent Music Awards nominated band, led by Jean-Pierre Durand, Liza Carbè and Jim Stubblefield, will take center-stage each day playing their signature world-fusion sound that combines Latin American rhythms with Indian, Arabic, and Celtic influences. Also performing is the internationally acclaimed jazz keyboardist Loa Tizer; the Rumproller Organ Trio; and a Sunday performance by vocalist Dawn Taylor.

Featured throughout the splendor of the artisan village that will transform the Indian Wells Tennis Garden concourse are live demonstrations from renowned artists such as painter Amado Peña, whose art is widely considered to be the 'essence of the Southwest.' Pedal loom weaver Antonio Mendoza will showcase how he creates dazzling textile designs of astounding complexity using hand-dyed wool and 2000 year-old Zapotec-culture weaving techniques.

Always a favorite among art enthusiasts is the incredibly talented Falossi family of artists whose rock sculptures inspire nothing less than awe as the award-winning 'rock duo' David Falossi and his young son Christopher chip away a work of art from a stone block. Painter Linda Shrader and her daughter Echo Westover will create a spectacular large-scale mural, completed from start to finish over the three-day event; and, glass-blower Bruce Freund will transform sand into colorful, delicate hand-blown glass art with temperatures of more than 2,100 degrees in his portable furnace.

New to the Festival this year is portraiture artist Peter Mikulak whose talent rose to fame with national recognition of his unique and edgy portrait painting techniques while selling his works of the 'Forever Marilyn' exhibit in Palms Springs, and now prominently featured in luxury galleries and hotels such as the Hyatt Regency.

Adding to the energy of the event is the Rancho Mirage High School 'Flash Mob' who will deliver a breakout performance for Saturday festival-goers; and, fun photo-ops for attendees presented by the Cathedral City High School Digital Arts and Technology Academy (DATA) and event primary sponsor, Hot Purple Energy; as well as an assortment of wine, cocktail and food offerings, including a Sunday "Eggs + Champagne in The Garden" brunch menu till noon, and children's activities.

The 13th annual Indian Wells Arts Festival takes place at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden's East Plaza Grass



Glass blower Bruce Freund at the Indian Wells Arts Festival

Concourse (enter from Washington Street at Via Sevilla between Highway 111 and Fred Waring Drive, Indian Wells), opens Friday through Easter Sunday, April 3-5, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (gates close at 4). Adults \$13, Children free. More information at (760) 346-0042, www.IndianWellsArtsFestival.com.

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