



## Insider's Look at Grand Canyon

Webisode #3– Paint the Parks Transcript. (Art Show at Kolb Studio through Sept. 7, 2009)

**Patrick:** Well, I am here with the head of the Grand Canyon Association, Susan. What can you tell us is going on here at Kolb Studio tonight?

**Susan:** We've got a very exciting night here tonight. We've got "Paint the Parks", which is an exhibit. It is one of our favorites. It is artists that have painted parks all across the country. It is a juried program. We have over a hundred pieces here and this evening is our opening reception. We are having an opportunity to show the local community and our visitors to the Grand Canyon what wonderful art we have here in store.

**Patrick:** It really is beautiful art. I am seeing art from all sorts of different national parks here. It is nice Xanterra is putting on the deserts here. But I noticed some of these (*paintings*) are for sale. What are the proceeds for that going to?

**Susan:** Yes, it is a wonderful opportunity to buy original art. There are very reasonable prices. A portions of the proceeds goes to "Paint the Park" which is the sponsors that put on this juried program. Then a portion comes back to Grand Canyon Association to help support Grand Canyon National Park.

**Patrick:** Wonderful. Well I also noticed that every few months, when I come into Kolb Studio, this great space where the Kolb Brothers used to show that movie of them going down the river back in 1912, all the art that I have seen from children's books to you name it....are you involved with all of that?

**Susan:** We are indeed and we have so much fun, it's a great venue to exhibit some of these wonderful programs, and arts, and exhibits. We have over 73,000 visitors that come through the Kolb studio to look at the exhibits here in this space. So, it is very special.

**Patrick:** Well thanks for bringing all this art to the public. It's a great venue, right here on the edge of the canyon for everybody to see. Thanks for joining us on "Insider's look at Grand Canyon".

**Susan:** Great, thank you.

**Patrick:** As you folks can hear, the event is still going on. Lots of folks checking out all the "Paint the Parks" art. I am here with Helen. You work for Grand Canyon Association. What do you do for them?

**Helen:** Well, my official title is public relations, but tonight it is exhibit coordinator.

**Patrick:** Nice, and could you tell us a bit about the exhibit tonight?

**Helen:** Yes, this is the second year we have had this exhibit. It is juried competition with art from all around the country and the criteria is that it has be on a national park, or national monument, or public lands. It is juried competition and we have the top one hundred large paintings and fifty of the top mini (*paintings*).

**Patrick:** Nice. So, I noticed all over the Kolb Studio we have art from this particular event, but I noticed up above some other art that's for Grand Canyon.

**Helen:** Well, actually that art tonight is a part of this show. (Patrick: Oh I see...) Grand Canyon Association has an art collection, but that is now at the Booth Western Art Museum in Atlanta, Georgia. It is going to open on August 8<sup>th</sup>. I am going to attend that opening. So that people in the southeast can see our art collection. Also Grand Canyon National Park's art collection is there as well.

**Patrick:** Nice, and that will eventually come back to us, right?

**Helen:** It will come back in November and then it will go back up on that upper gallery that you were mentioning.

**Patrick:** Gottcha, well hey could you take us to a few different paintings and tell us something about them?

**Helen:** Yes, I would like to. Let me take you to our purchase award. This is number 97. Patrick, did you look this condor up yet?

**Patrick:** You know I have noticed we have some things about the condor that the audience might not know, which is that there are so few condors in the world that all of the adults actually have a number/telemetry device. I noticed in this painting that this condor does have the number "97". Go ahead, tell about that.

**Helen:** Well, this is the Grand Canyon Association purchase award. Each year we purchase one or two

...pieces of art that become a part of our collection, that then either travel around the country or are here for our visitors at Grand Canyon National Park. This particular image, that we are looking at, "Majesty" by Judith Spitz, she is over here standing with a big smile on her face, is that purchase award. So, she got a nice sum of money. I don't remember how much. This will be back here at Grand Canyon in April for the visitors to see and it will be here forever.

**Patrick:** This is really an excellent painting. It's neat to know that people can see this art and maybe go out and see this bird. Could you, real briefly, introduce me to Judith?

**Helen:** I think we should, don't you think?

**Patrick:** Judith, I'm Patrick Gamman, the host of Insider's look at Grand Canyon (a podcast). This piece of art, that you made, is great. Could you tell us a little bit about it?

**Judith:** I can tell you a whole lot about it. In April, about a year a few months ago, I came down here and saw that there was the paint the parks show. For some reason I fell in love with a painting later and purchased it. Then I walked down Bright Angel trail after that. Then I saw her and photographed the Condor.

**Patrick:** You saw condor number 97?

**Judith:** Exactly, I saw condor number 97 and after that I found out that she was five years old and that she was born in a certain place. I took a million photographs of her and luckily one photograph was the incredible photograph that helped me paint the painting.

**Patrick:** How long did it take you to paint this particular portrait?

**Judith:** It took me about a month. But the first pass I didn't get right and wind looked more like a turtle. I started scraping the painting and I ripped it.

**Patrick:** Oh, no kidding...

**Judith:** I went home and I cried. My husband said, "Let's go out and buy another canvas. Let's start all over again". Monday morning I started fresh.

**Patrick:** So, it took two tries to make this painting.

**Judith:** To make this painting...and the canyon changed.... on the Bright Angel trail I photographed the condor looking up, so I only had sky. Then I came back to the canyon and photographed that same rock, looking down, because I can do that because I am an artist. So, I am looking down at the canyon because I wanted "Majesty" to be the majesty of the canyon, the majesty of the bird, and the majesty of the sky. And that is the story of the painting and the painting is incredible.

**Patrick:** I really like it. I am glad that the visitors of Grand Canyon will get to see your work.

**Judith:** I am so honored that that painting and number 97 will live up here. It is far beyond anything I could have hoped for.

**Patrick:** Well Judith, it is an excellent painting and thank you so much for joining us on "Insider's look at Grand Canyon.

**Judith:** Thanks so much for talking to me.

**Patrick:** No worries...

**Helen:** I want to show you those two Grand Canyon pieces. Can I show you two Grand Canyon pieces?

**Patrick:** Of course you can!

**Helen:** That artist just arrived. What really is important about these two pieces I am going to show you, this is by a Flagstaff artist. Her name is Arlene Tinus. Last year her painting, "Morning on the Colorado", was the Grand Canyon Association purchase award. It is now at the Booth Western Art Museum with the rest of our collection. So, kind of exciting and she is back here again tonight.

**Patrick:** Terrific.

**Helen:** Look at that

**Patrick:** That's nice. All those layers of the canyon, I like the oranges and yellows. You know at Grand Canyon, depending on the time of day, you get the different colors. When there are clouds out and it is stormy it is purple and blue. This painting really shows with the nice light the yellows the reds. What do you think about this?

**Helen:** I really like it. I think she really captured it, don't you?

**Patrick:** I really do...that is an excellent, excellent painting.

**Helen:** She is just so excited to be a part of the event. Think of how an artist feels when they can come to Grand Canyon, see their art hanging at Kolb Studio, and look out the window and what do they see?

**Patrick:** Yes, that is nice and the public gets to share it as well. That is what really excites me.

**Helen:** So, it is all good. But she is here and I don't know where she went.

**Patrick:** And, is there another piece of art that you wanted to show me? One more you were saying.

**Helen:** This is Rebecca Riel and this is her painting. We have one of her pieces in our collection as well, we purchased it last year. She was so thrilled, so here she is again tonight.

**Patrick:** Ma'am, what is your name?

**Rebecca:** Rebecca Riel.

**Patrick:** You did this painting here?

**Rebecca:** Yes, I did.

**Patrick:** Oh, this is excellent. My name is Ranger Patrick. I am with Insider's look at Grand Canyon, a podcast show. Would you tell the folks that listen to this program a little bit about your painting?

**Rebecca:** I would be thrilled too. The native art has been a fascination for me for eons. My early training was as a scientific illustrator. I have always been fascinated to find out what the connection is between the art that the Native Americans have been doing, which is so rich and so detailed, and what inspired them. So in my art, I have been looking for connections between what patterns have occurred in nature and how it has been reflected in Native American art through the eons. It is so rich to be able to find things such as weaving patterns that mimic scales. The sphinx moth was a visitor to my screen door so I was able to use it as a model. The color that they have, that they keep as a common theme throughout their art and everything is just inspired by the world around them. It was fascinating to me.

**Patrick:** Nice, that is excellent. What a beautiful painting. Well, in this podcast people will get to see it. It actually will have pictures with it and they will get to see your painting. So, thank you so much for sharing this painting with the public, being on the podcast show and we hope to see you here again.

**Rebecca:** I am absolutely thrilled. I absolutely love participating in this show and the quality of work that shows up here is truly amazing.

**Patrick:** Well, a pleasure to meet you. Thanks for being on the show.....

So, another artist here at this great event. Could you tell our audience your name?

**Arlene:** Arlene Tinus.

**Patrick:** Arlene, could you tell us a little bit about your painting?

**Arlene:** Yes, these particular or in general?

**Patrick:** The one that is here at the exhibit.

**Arlene:** There is the one over there of Isis. I call it; "The Queen and Her Court", because I am just fascinated with Isis it just stands out and looks lovely. The light was so brilliant on it. It was just exciting to paint. The other painting is down at the other end. It is called; "River Morning". I name them all river something, they get mixed up.

**Patrick:** That is great.

**Arlene:** But, they are down on the river and in the morning and again it was a wonderful experience to see that sight.

**Patrick:** Nice, that is great. For our listeners I just want them to know that here at Grand Canyon a lot of things are named after Hindu things, Egyptian things. Because we had a geologist here a hundred years ago who had read the classics, who had been around the world and named things like Isis and Woton's Throne. It is really great you got that. Helen and I were actually talking about your painting a little bit earlier. I love how you captured the colors of the canyon.

**Arlene:** I was just fascinated with the colors. It was exciting.

**Patrick:** You know what I say to visitors is that if you see Grand Canyon at dawn, noon, and dusk you have seen three national parks and if you see it at night there is the fourth, and you captured one of those.

**Arlene:** Well, thank you.

**Patrick:** Thanks again for joining us on the show. We hope to see you at the exhibit again.

**Arlene:** Thank you so much, it is a delight to be here.

**Patrick:** So, Helen you have been so great about showing me the art, meeting some of the artist, but what is going on in the upcoming art world here at Grand Canyon?

**Helen:** Well, Patrick I am really excited about this. This is a great show here tonight, but in September we are going to have something that Grand Canyon has never had before. It is an event that we are going to start in 2009 called; "Grand Canyon Celebration of Art". What it is is original Grand Canyon art that is being painted with a fund raising twist. The artists have agreed to a very generous split with Grand Canyon Association, with the hopes of creating a permanent art venue here at Grand Canyon National Park. You know earlier I told you about the paintings in our art collection, well also Grand Canyon National Park, you know that you own two Thomas Moran's, the park does, the public does. They are just in storage; there is no place for them to hang. Isn't it a shame that it is not available for the public. This event is going to become an annual fund raising event, which will someday soon create a permanent art venue. Visitors to Grand Canyon National Park can come see some of the historic art and get an idea how important art was for creating the public lands.

**Patrick:** Terrific, would you be willing to talk to our listeners then?

**Helen:** Absolutely, I am going to put a plug in. Tell your listeners to look at; [grandcanyon.org](http://grandcanyon.org) and look at the events schedule and tell them to come up and watch the painters paint on the rim and come see Kolb Studio with all of that beautiful art.

**Patrick:** Well, you just told them. Thanks again Helen for joining us.

**Helen:** Thanks Patrick.