

# SHEMER ARIZONA ARTS FESTIVAL

Kick off holiday shopping at this two-day event

BY GABBY RICHMAN



Since 1998, Shemer Art Center has been hosting Shemer Arizona Arts Festival, and it's returning to the Valley Nov. 3-4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. More than 40 specifically selected Arizona artists will showcase their one-of-a-kind works of art at the free festival.

"Interested Arizona artists apply and we have different jurors every year who select the artists based on the quality of their artwork and the overall mix of works that are going to be featuring at this event," Shonna James, president and executive director of Shemer Arts Center, explains of the selection process.

At the festival, there will be various community art organizations, artist demonstrations and interactive opportunities.

"We will have two of our ceramics instructors demonstrating wheel throwing, we will have a glass instructor from the Arizona Glass Alliance demonstrating flame working, and we will have a full village of blacksmiths from all over Arizona who attendees can work with to create their own handmade gifts," James says.

In addition, there will also be children's art activities in an interactive Kids Zone (\$5 entry) as well as live music, food and beverage vendors and a silent auction where each of the artists who participate in the event will donate one item for the raffle. Various items from local businesses will also be up for grabs.

"The proceeds from this event will benefit the nonprofit Shemer Art Center," James says. "We use the funds raised from this annual event to continue providing all of our visual art classes, workshops and lectures, as well as supporting and showcasing Arizona artists through our visual art exhibitions, events, gift shop and sculpture garden."

This year, Shemer Art Center will also once again partner with the Camelback Studio Tour, which will be held Nov. 2-4. The Camelback Studio Tour features over 20 local artists hosted in eight different home studios.

"We are showcasing their [Camelback Studio Tour's] artists and their works of art in our silent auction, we are each sharing our event materials with our attendees and promoting each other in media efforts and on our websites," James explains of their continued partnership. "Plus, we are offering their attendees the opportunity to stop at our event before, during or after their home studios tours for more art and perhaps breakfast or lunch from our food vendors."

The festival has returned year after year (formerly called Sunday @ Shemer) and is now in its 30th year, with no sign of slowing down. "There's nothing like a unique, original gift from an Arizona artist," James says.

Shemer Art Center, 5005 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix; 602.262.4727; For more information, email [info@shemerartcenter.org](mailto:info@shemerartcenter.org) or visit [www.shemerartcenter.org](http://www.shemerartcenter.org).