

Among Indian Wells Arts Festival artists is a preteen



Sherry Barkas, The Desert Sun 5:43 p.m. PDT April 1, 2016



(Photo: Sherry Barkas/The Desert Sun)

Mayor Dana Reed was enjoying himself Friday, making his way through the Indian Wells Tennis Garden, awarding ribbons and meeting various artists as the 14th annual Indian Wells Arts Festival got under way.

"This is one of the great perks of being mayor. I got to give awards at the (BNP Paribas Open) tennis tournament and, two weeks later, I am back to give out more," Reed said.

"The quality of work here is just spectacular," he added.

The arts festival is among several events in the Coachella Valley this weekend that draw thousands of people from all over the world, including the ANA Invitational LPGA golf tournament, which wraps up this weekend at

Mission Hills in Rancho Mirage, Dinah Shore weekend in Palm Springs and Fashion Week El Paseo, which begins Saturday in Palm Desert.



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The three-day Indian Wells Arts Festival, sponsored by the city and held at the Tennis Garden, features 200 artists from 30 different countries in a variety of media, including paintings, photography, sculpture, glasswork, jewelry and clothing.

"We had a line of people ... waiting to get in this morning," festival founder and organizer Dianne Funk said.

The event draws about 10,000 people each year and produces about \$750,000 in artist sales, Funk said.

It's a nice event for people who hesitate to go to galleries, she said. It's a casual setting where people can see the artists at work.

"The artists love to talk to people about their work," Funk said.



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[Indian Wells Arts Festival begins this Friday, April 1](#)

[\(http://www.desertsun.com/story/money/business/tourism/2016/03/25/indian-wells-arts-festival-next-weekend/82271316/\)](http://www.desertsun.com/story/money/business/tourism/2016/03/25/indian-wells-arts-festival-next-weekend/82271316/)

The youngest artists at this year's event are brother and sister, Aaden Kinman, 8, and Lauren Kinman, 15, from Pleasant Hill, Ore., who sell and exhibit their art with their father, Dusty Kinman, who is also their teacher.

Reed presented each with a Young Artist at Work award – a yellow ribbon – Friday morning.

Aaden has shown his work the past three years while Lauren just started about two years ago. She still gets excited thinking about her first sale, which brought her \$700.

"It was pretty great actually," she said. "It's a feeling of, 'Wow. I can make it (as an artist).'"

They paint with oils on linen canvas using knives rather than brushes. It is a technique that Dusty Kinman said his grandmother, Florence Sackett, developed in the 1950s.

"I have her first painting," he said.

Shawn Tsai is a glassblower, originally from Taiwan now living in Orange County. What started as a hobby 30 years ago soon developed into a full-time occupation, he said.

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A collection of pieces made by glassblower Shawn Tsai, one of 200 artists participating in the Indian Wells Arts Festival this weekend at the tennis garden. (Photo: Sherry Barkas/The Desert Sun)

“There were not classes available then,” he said. “As I played with it, I got hooked and kept doing it day and night. ... It’s all free-form, not from molds.”

He has exhibited at the Indian Wells Arts Festival before.

“I did the very first festival,” Tsai said. “I like the setting. ... It’s relaxing and beautiful.”

In addition to the art, there are food vendors, music and activities for kids.

Some local youth organizations are involved this year as well. The Coachella Valley Youth Ensemble and Aztec Dancers from Desert Mirage School are among the performers while Coachella Valley High School students are filming the event.

The Gourmet MarketPlace has returned this year where festival-goers can find epicurean olive oils and vinegars; bath and body products; and more.

Sandi Sabel, a founder of Terra Verde Farms in Carlsbad, has been participating in the Indian Wells festival for about five years, offering marinades, salad dressings, salsas and preserves made with all-natural ingredients.

“I love the artwork. I love the atmosphere. I love the people,” Sabel said when asked why she keeps coming back.

Indian Wells Arts Festival

When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

Where: Indian Wells Tennis Garden, 78-200 Miles Ave., Indian Wells

Admission: \$13 adults; free for children 12 and under

Parking: Free; valet service available

Information: <http://www.indianwellsartsfestival.com/>

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