



MUSEUM of  
NORTHERN  
ARIZONA

*Celebrating the Colorado Plateau*

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**MNA ANNOUNCES 2016 GALA & FINE ART AUCTION JUNE 25  
HONORING ARTIST CURT WALTERS**

(Flagstaff, Ariz.) March 24, 2016 – The Museum of Northern Arizona (MNA) in Flagstaff will present its 2016 Gala & Fine Art Auction Saturday, June 25. The gala, which serves as the primary fundraising event for the Museum, will honor renowned Arizona artist Curt Walters and preview the exhibition, *Curt Walters: A Retrospective*, on view to the public June 26 through November 1, 2016.

Event attendees will enjoy cocktails and a silent auction featuring an array of artwork beginning at 5:00 p.m. on MNA's historic campus on the edge of the Rio de Flag. Dinner and a live auction, including works from some of the Southwest's most accomplished artists, follows at 6:30 p.m. in a picturesque outdoor setting. Individual tickets are \$250 for the cocktail-attire event with proceeds supporting Museum programs and exhibitions.

*Curt Walters: A Retrospective* features more than 30 paintings by Walters, tracing his evolution as a landscape artist over the last 35 years. The exhibition includes never before exhibited works, on loan from collectors nation-wide.

"Curt Walters is one of Arizona's cultural icons, whose influence on artists cannot be overstated," said Carrie M. Heinonen, MNA Director and CEO. "We are thrilled to be honoring his work and legacy through our gala and retrospective."

Declared the "Greatest Living Grand Canyon Artist" in 1997 by *Art of the West Magazine*, Walters style is described as intensely realistic, while retaining a casual grace.

"He is an astute observer of light and atmospheric effects," said Alan Petersen, MNA Curator of Fine Arts. "He credits working *en plein aire* on the rim of the Grand Canyon with refining his sense of color and energizing his brushwork."

Arizona Public Service is the lead sponsor of the 2016 Gala & Fine Art Auction and Beverly Lockett Miller will be the Honorary Chair of the event.

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## Weekend Highlights

**2016 Gala & Fine Art Auction:** Saturday, June 25, 5:00 – 9:00 p.m., \$250 per person

**2016 Artist’s Brunch:** Sunday, June 26, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., \$45 per person

**Gallery Talk:** Sunday, June 26, 12:00 p.m., free with Museum admission

For table sponsorships and tickets, visit [www.musnaz.org](http://www.musnaz.org), email [development@musnaz.org](mailto:development@musnaz.org) or call (928) 774-5211, ext. 227.

## About Curt Walters

Curt Walters was born in New Mexico and raised in the Four Corners area of the state, where he acquired and developed his eye for dramatic landscapes. He attended Farmington High School and the San Juan Campus of New Mexico State University. In 1974, Walters moved to Taos, NM and began working and studying with artists of the central valley, including noted landscape painter Wilson Hurley. In 1977, he won the prestigious *John F. and Anna Lee Stacey Scholarship Award* to further his artistic studies in the classical tradition of Western culture. As a result, he was contacted by Ted and Christine Mollring, owners of Trailside Galleries, who began exhibiting his work in both their Jackson Hole and Scottsdale galleries and received his first national media coverage in 1980 in *American Artist Magazine*.

Over the next decade, Walters came into maturity as a landscape artist, transitioning from various styles and periods of experimentation into a plein aire focused approach. He has received numerous national accolades from *Prix de West*, *West Select*, *Quest for the West*, and *Masters of the American West*. In 2011, he was named one of the “Forty Prominent People in the Western Art World” by *Southwest Art*, and in 2014, Walters received a *Lifetime Achievement Award* from the Desert Caballeros Museum in Wickenburg. He resides in Sedona.

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## Image Captions:

(Left) *The Mittens* © 2003, 20 x 48, oil on canvas, collection of Christine Mollring.

(Center) *Oak Creek* © 1992, 48 x 48, oil on canvas, collection of Charlie and Jennifer Sands.

(Right) *November’s Trinity* © 2013, 36 x 36, oil on canvas, collection of Gilbert Waldman and Christy Vezolles.

**Location:** Museum of Northern Arizona, 3101 N. Fort Valley Rd, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

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