



PRESS RELEASE

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RED ROCK CANVAS ANNOUNCES HONOREE AND BENEFICIARIES FOR NOVEMBER CITYWIDE ARTS EVENT November 7 – 9, 2008

Sedona is fast gearing up for its 1st annual city-wide arts and culture event: "[Red Rock Canvas.](#)" It has now been announced that Arizona sculptor **John Waddell** will be the honoree at a gala event that will serve as the grand highlight of this exciting weekend. John Waddell has been an intrinsic part of the Arizona art scene for more than forty years. Best known for bronze sculptures of female nudes in motion, Waddell is a prolific artist with public works on display from California to New York, with many in prominent locations in Phoenix, Arizona. Waddell's life-size and greater than life-size sculptures, noted for their grace and realism, have captivated more than a generation of admirers.

After attending the Art Institute of Chicago, Waddell had his first solo show at the age of twenty-one. He completed an M.F.A. in both Fine Arts and Art Education before teaching for twelve years; at the age of 43, after heading the Art Education Department at Arizona State University, Waddell turned to sculpting full time.

It was the 1963 church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama, in which four young girls died, that became a pivotal event in Waddell's development as an artist. In response to that tragedy he created a monument entitled, *That Which Might Have Been*, Birmingham, 1963. Monumental groupings became a passion for him and he went on to create "Expulsion from the Garden of the Earth," "Dance", "Circle of Womanhood," "Celebration" and others. Individual large sculpture, smaller sculpture and paintings round out the prolific artist's repertoire.

Now in his eighties, Waddell continues to create works of art that compel our attention. The characteristics of every individual figure he sculpts remain as unique as the next, each one a celebration of how great a human being can be.

The Red Rock Canvas is also announcing beneficiaries for the ticketed evening Gala and Auctions, taking place at the Sedona Rouge on November 8.

[Camp Soaring Eagle](#), being constructed in the Village of Oak Creek, will provide a recreational and therapeutic camp experience to children with serious illnesses and life-threatening conditions. While at camp, these children will discover the joys of childhood often missed during extended medical treatment. Aspiring to become a member of Paul Newman's internationally acclaimed "Hole in the Wall Camps", Camp Soaring Eagle is following stringent guidelines to ensure the camp meets the highest safety standards and quality programming.

A passion of honoree John Henry Waddell, **Human Nature Dance Theatre** will also benefit from the proceeds of the art auctions. Human Nature Dance Theatre performs throughout Northern Arizona. They integrate live music, spoken word and dramatic light effects with movement to create a unique experience translating a story or theme.

Red Rock Canvas is presented by the Sedona Gallery Association with sponsorships from the City of Sedona, Sedona Chamber of Commerce, Sedona Monthly, Sedona Magazine, Red Rock TV and Sedona NOW. Visit RedRockCanvas.com for event details as they develop or to purchase tickets for the Saturday Gala. **For more information email info@sedonagalleryassociation.com or call 928-567-3650.**