



Art show a real coup for museum

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Photo by Leslie Shaw Hi-Desert Star

Michelle Pence has two pieces in the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle show, Owly (left) and Turtle Shell.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle show

Phyllis Lyte Special to the Hi-Desert Star

Once again, Yucca Valley's Hi-Desert Nature Museum has pulled off a coup.

Friday, you could easily have thought that you were at an art gallery opening in any big city in the country.

The current exhibit by local artists supports the theme, "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle." It is a combination of works that use recycled and/or reused materials, along with other media representing our desert wildlife, provided by the Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council. Every piece reflects the vision and talent of the artists, including very young children!

Not only was there a feast for the eyes, but we were treated to a tasty buffet with beverages and were serenaded by our fine local musical group, the Ritmo Loco quintet, treating us to their Afro-Cuban-jazz style. Members of the group are Owen Willingham on electric piano, Damian Lester on electric bass guitar, Dennis McDade on timbales, Sam Sloneker on conga drums and Kelly Corbin, contributing his mellow tones on tenor saxophone.

The evening also included recognition of museum members who have donated generously through the Buy-A-Brick program toward the museum's continuation and its ability to bring scientific knowledge, history and cultural events to our community.

Credit for this grand affair goes to the museum staff, Crystal Mason, museum educator; Janine Cleveland, gift shop manager; Stephanie Ritter, staff biologist (who has an important work in the exhibit); and Lynne Richardson, museum supervisor, without whom none of this would have happened.

Though you may have missed the exhibit opening, you and your favorite children can certainly enjoy this creative exhibit of works that are beautiful, informative and even funny. They will continue to be on display 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, through April 27.

Museum entrance is free, though donations of any amount are gratefully accepted.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Phyllis Lyte was so impressed with the exhibit, she wrote this story for the newspaper about it.

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