

Trickery with trash

By Rebecca Unger
Hi-Desert Star

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YUCCA VALLEY — The Hi-Desert Nature Museum’s fourth annual “three Rs” art show is four Rs this year.

The “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” trash tricksters are joined by “Rocks,” a fine-arts tribute to the geologic inspiration of Joshua Tree National Park.

“This show started when we wanted to do something for Earth Day,” Museum Supervisor Lynne Richardson recalled. “There’s such a great arts community here, we just put out a general call to the artists. And I’m always so amazed at what we get! What I would throw away, they pull out of the trash and turn it into art. Those are true artists.”



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The eclectic “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle/Rocks” exhibit will make you wonder and ponder. This group of art lovers seem to be debating the meaning of Bonnie Brady’s “Wall Hanging,” composed of “miscellaneous old ephemera.”

Early on, the Museum teamed up with the Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council to include an environmental theme that wasn’t centered around rusted metal.

“The ‘Reduce, Reuse, Recycle’ exhibit was more texture than color, and tended to be mostly brown,” Richardson said with a chuckle. “Adding more color through the fine arts has been great.”

This year the MBCAC wanted to celebrate the park’s 75th anniversary, so the council juried and curated a show of its members and brought the best to the

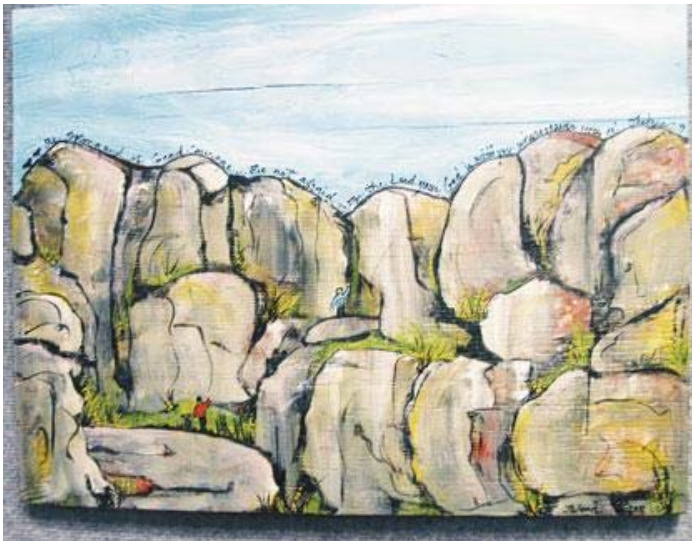
museum.

“We don’t jury ‘Reduce, Reuse, Recycle,’ we just hang it all up — as long as it meets the criteria of taste!” Richardson laughed out loud, but with affection for the show’s whimsical, way-out and wacky elements.

The diverse materials and visions do create a “box of chocolates” effect, with something sweet, something smooth and a delightful sprinkling of nutty. There’s even a “Wok of Rocks,” that combines the two themes.

“This exhibit went up easily. It was so organic and meant to be,” the supervisor marveled. “It keeps getting bigger every year, but we had enough room for everything.”

The “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle/Rocks” exhibit runs through April 23.



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Tami Wood imbues the national park’s rocks with a command from Jehovah to warrior-prophet and desert namesake Joshua. The tiny human figures greet each other in the midst of a wilderness tumulus, raising their arms high like the tireless trees.



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Carolyn Eads Blaker poses with her yin-yanging, eternally tail-chasing geckos. “It just kept growing,” the Yucca Valley recycler cheerfully admits. “But I had so much fun putting it together.”



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Susan Greer made this recycled rattlesnake from a year’s worth of family food containers.