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A VEGAS SENSATION

By Jennifer Dulin, ABN Managing Editor

A sense of excitement and invigoration pervaded the show floor, Sept. 28-30, during the first ever Artexpo Las Vegas, hosted at the Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino. Much like its new location, the show left a lasting impression on exhibitors and attendees alike with the myriad of new art, artists and buyers present at the event.

Las Vegas proved to be a gracious and entertaining host for the first-time show, which featured more than 350 exhibitors from across the globe in categories ranging from traditional art to sculpture to contemporary glass and large-scale installations. Originals and limited editions created specifically for the show added to the festive environment, and new releases from emerging and established artists caught the eyes of the 10,000-plus trade and consumer attendees.

Exhibitors cashed in on buyers of many calibers and solidified relationships with longstanding customers while enjoying all the glitz and glam Las Vegas had to offer. Attendees enjoyed a host of special events, including a well-attended Preview Night, a successful charity auction, celebrity appearances by [Tony Curtis](#) and [Grace Slick](#) and onsite demonstrations and performances by several exhibiting artists.

“Eric Smith, vice president of The Art Group, the show’s producer, was pleased with the industry’s positive response to the first-time show. “There was a genuine buzz at Artexpo Las Vegas,” he said. “Every exhibitor I talked to was upbeat and excited about the show. That kind of energy and excitement is contagious, and the proof was in the crowds. I want to thank everyone who participated; it was fun to be a part of.”



Attendees and exhibitors enjoyed a jam-packed Preview Night before the show's official opening.



Best [SOLO] 3-D Artist: Larry R. Rankin

Best [SOLO] 3-D Artist [Larry R. Rankin](#) has earned an impressive international reputation during his 20-plus years as an artist. Created in his studio in Santa Barbara, Calif., his sculptures in cast bronze, carved wood and stone range from 6 inches to 7½ feet. His powerful and unusual designs convey his love of family, his sense of humor and his understanding of abstract and non-objective forms. Rankin was named the Best [SOLO] 3-D Artist by the Artexpo show staff for the quality of his work and the attention it garnered throughout the show.

“Rock ‘n’ Roll” is a cast bronze sculpture measuring 34 x 27 x 10 inches by Larry R. Rankin.