

# Gilbert art show opens Saturday, but in Mesa

## Search for new venue led to 3-month delay

By Srianthi Perera  
The Republic | azcentral.com

After a three months delay due to a long search for a fresh venue and making do without a town grant, Gilbert Visual Art League's annual art show begins Saturday in Mesa's East Side Art Gallery.

In its 10th year, the juried fine-art show will run through Feb. 16. The 78 works from Valley artists are categorized as paintings in oil, acrylic, watercolor, mixed media, pastel, photography and three-dimensional art. The opening-night reception includes the presentation of ribbons and cash awards, while the People's Choice award will be given at the closing reception on Feb. 16.

Cynthia Peterson, Phoenix artist and adjunct at Mesa Community College, will judge.

The show was postponed from its regular slot in the first two weeks of Novem-



This stoneware bust of Antonin Dvorak by Max Heckard will be displayed during the 10th annual Gilbert Visual Arts League Juried Fine Art Show opening Saturday.

ber because the league could not find a suitable venue even though it began searching last July. In years past, it has

been held at the Gilbert Historical Museum, which the league deems unaffordable, and last year it was held, free of charge, at Gallery 225 in downtown Gilbert, which no longer exists.

Despite the troubles, show coordinator Jean Turner-Smith said this year's venue is "nice."

"I think it's quite convenient, even for Gilbert," Turner-Smith said. "It's a pretty fast drive to get there, and it's fairly spacious. ... I wish it was in Gilbert, but it's a nice place to do it."

The league is paying \$150 for the space.

Without the town grant of \$1,000, the award amounts for Best of Show (\$200) and People's Choice (\$100) have been cut back and only the first-place entry, rather than first, second and third, in the seven categories will win \$50 each. Four years ago, the town grant was \$2,000, and during the last two years, it was reduced to \$1,000.

Turner-Smith said she is "disappointed."

"I look around at the town and I see different people's interests - I see horse

## ART SHOW

**What:** The Gilbert Visual Arts League Juried Fine Art Show.

**When:** Saturday-Feb 16 with an artist reception from 2-6 p.m. on Saturday. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

**Where:** East Side Art Gallery, 9919 E. Apache Trail, Mesa.

**Details:** gval.org

trails, I see bicycle lanes, a lot of baseball fields, that kind of thing. And I feel like we need those things, but there are some areas that are ignored and I feel like the arts is one of them," she said.

"I think (the town) is working in that direction," she said, adding that she would like to be able to use space in the library or senior center "that sits there mostly empty most of the time."

"And yet for us to try and rent something like that would be in excess of \$2,000 per show," she said. "If we were

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