

ART

at La Quinta Arts Festival Biochemist turned artist will make debut

Perennial favorites and rising stars of the art world are among the promises the La Quinta Arts Festival 2009 expects to deliver at its March 12-15 festival.

The event will be staged at the La Quinta Civic Center Campus, which will be transformed into an art lover's paradise. Many never-before-seen works, in all shapes, sizes, mediums and price ranges, will be shown at the 27th annual event.

One of the 56 artists new to the Festival exhibiting for the first time in the Coachella Valley is Tres Taylor. Working with the unusual materials of roofing paper, rice paper, putty, house paints and acrylics, Taylor burst onto the world's art scene rather surreptitiously. But Tres will tell you he arrived at his calling through divine intervention.

In 1998, after working as a biochemist in San Diego for over 20 years, Tres visited with RA Miller, a Georgia folk artist on a holiday visit to his Southern hometown. During their conversation Tres told Miller "I wish I could paint like you" and Miller responded, "You can - you're an artist."

Taylor returned to his research work at UCSD, but one evening riding his bicycle home from work, he happened upon



Tres Taylor's "Fishing Monks"

some discarded wood near the San Diego Museum of Art in Balboa Park. That wood became the canvas of Taylor's first painting. Tres recounts, "It was if a paintbrush fell from the sky." Almost every night

from then on, consumed by the joy of creation, Tres rushed home to paint. Within two years he left his job as a biochemist to paint full time.

Since his epiphany, Tres' creations emanate from the spiritual, seeking love, Divine Love, peace and joy through subjects of monks, couples and houses, and sometimes containing the love-obsessed words of poets Rumi and Neruda. Taylor has exhibited primarily in Japan and along the eastern seaboard states around his home in Birmingham, Ala.

"We look forward to welcoming Tres to La Quinta Arts Festival," said Executive Director Christi Salamone. "We are sure his colorful expressionistic work of unconventional subject matter will be well received. It just makes you smile."

About the Festival: Produced by the La Quinta Arts Foundation (LQAF), in partnership with its premier sponsor, the City of La Quinta, the annual award-winning La Quinta Arts Festival attracts art patrons and visitors from across the nation. Art Fair Source Book, a highly respected resource for artists, has named La Quinta Arts Festival #8 in nation among fine art festivals in the 2009 rankings.

For more information, visit www.lqaf.com. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Ticket prices are: Single Day Admission - \$12; Multi-Day Pass - \$15; Children under 12 - free. Live entertainment, refreshments and valet parking available.