

# Floral art at UMFA

## Park City florists selected for fine art and flowers exhibit

*Submitted by the Utah  
Museum of Fine Arts*

Three Park City florists will celebrate the arrival of spring by showcasing their artistic ingenuity at the much-anticipated benefit event, Art in Bloom, at the Utah Museum of Fine Arts. Organized biennially by the UMFA Benefit Council, all proceeds raised from this three-day convergence of fine art and floral design support the UMFA's educational outreach programs in the state of Utah.

The centerpiece of the Art in Bloom weekend is an exhibition of more than 30 interpretive arrangements fashioned by Utah's top floral designers. Each artist will enliven the Museum's galleries by selecting an object from the UMFA's collection and, using flowers, greenery, custom-made containers, and their own artistic vision, creating a unique floral arrangement for display. The exhibition will be open to the public Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17 by paid admission.

Jane Sahagian, owner of Rikka, LLC in Park City, Utah selected a 19th century sculpture from Thailand to inspire her floral arrangement. "Rikka means 'stand-

ing flowers' in Japanese, so we're instinctively drawn to the UMFA's Southeast Asian art gallery," explains Sahagian. "Making its debut in 2009, Rikka is delighted to showcase and marry its creative floral vision with UMFA's bronze sculpture entitled Walking Buddha."

The UMFA's Dore Eccles Pacific Island Galleries will feature two designs by Park City floral artists Karen Buresh and Marilyn Brumfield. Representing the floral and tabletop design company Chesa Verde, Karen will reinvent a Tatanua Helmet Mask with lush flowers and greenery. In the same gallery, Marilyn will showcase the talent of The Silver Cricket Floral & Interiors shop by creating an intriguing arrangement in response to a Jipae Body Mask.

The floral designs, which will be on exhibition throughout the Art in Bloom weekend, are complemented by a full schedule of festive events. The benefit will debut with "Flowers After Hours," a fabulous fête featuring a preview of Art in Bloom at its freshest. Guests will sip cocktails, stroll through a sale of small paintings by invited artists, and sit down to an elegant supper and live music. The inimitable Mark Eaton will

oversee the evening's festivities as master of ceremonies.

Saturday morning, Art in Bloom will open to the public with a lively lecture and demonstration by internationally acclaimed floral design master and author, Alisa de Jong-Stout. Visitors can enjoy a delicious spring luncheon in the Great Hall and later attend an inspiring lecture by art historian and author Hannah Sigur.

On Sunday morning, novice and experienced floral designers alike will have the opportunity to test and develop their skills in hands-on floral design classes by Alisa de Jong-Stout. Adding to Sunday's exciting itinerary is a container gardening workshop from the floral experts at Cactus and Tropicals.

Art in Bloom is a unique opportunity to delight in artistic creativity and floral design while supporting visual arts education in Utah. Proceeds from Art in Bloom are critical to ensuring the continuation of the UMFA's exemplary public programs, such as Third Saturdays and Family Backpacks.

In addition, funds raised support cross-curricular arts education and outreach programs, all specifically designed for Utah students and educators, such as pARTners and Art-in-a-Box. Without these programs, many Utah children would have no access to visual arts education.

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