

PAUL O'NEILL, TRIBUNE

GETTING READY: Karen Leeds prepares her artwork during the first day of the Arizona Fine Art Expo on Thursday in Scottsdale.

2 art shows feature 100 artists

By LINDSAY BUTLER TRIBUNE

Scottsdale art lovers looking for a new piece will have their pick of places to shop this weekend.

Two tent shows are opening, each featuring more than 100 artists and lasting for 10 weeks.

The Scottsdale Artists' League is having a show featuring the work of Scottsdale-area residents. And the downtown art galleries will open their doors for a special Saturday ArtWalk.

People heading to the tent shows may choose between the Celebration of Fine Art and the Fine Art Expo.

Both will feature artists selling and creating work on site. Both offer art in a variety of media: oil paintings, sculpture, jewelry and glass. And the two are just 3 miles apart.

"People get confused, and they think they're related," said Susan Morrow Potje, who organizes the Celebration of Fine Art, which opens Saturday.

Potje said it is natural to want to compete with the show, which is in its 17th year.

"At any corner intersection, if there's a McDonald's, there's probably a Wendy's or

a Burger King," she said.

What they both offer is a chance to watch artists as they create new art, and talk to them about their craft.

"It gives a personal sense to the piece," said artist Ken Borchardt, whose work can be seen at the Expo. "They can see the art made and watch it progress."

Each show also will try to lure in visitors with presentations.

For instance, the Celebration of Fine Art will feature pastry chef demonstrations Sunday afternoons in February.

The Fine Art Expo, meanwhile, will offer hoop danccorner of Pinnacle Peak and Scottsdale roads **When:** Open 10 a.m.

Arizona
Fine Art
Expo
Where: Southeast

When: Open 10 a.m to 6 p.m. through March 25

Cost: \$7; seniors \$6; children 12 and under free

Celebration of Fine Art

Where: Scottsdale Road and Mayo Boulevard, south of Loop 101

Where: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday to March 25

Cost: \$8; seniors \$7; children 12 and under free

ing, book signings and artist workshops during the 10 weeks.

"My dream is that every patron comes in and finds something they like, whether it's abstract, animal or nautical," said Judi Combs, Expo organizer.

The Fine Arts Expo is in its third year. This year will be the last time it sets up at Pinnacle Peak and Scottsdale roads, as a new development is on its way. Combs said it would move to Jomax and Scottsdale roads next year.

contact writer: (480) 970-2369 or |butler@aztrib.com