



Media contacts:

Kate Marquez kate@saaca.org

Cait Blanton cait@saaca.org

Southern Arizona Arts and Cultural Alliance

(520) 797-3959

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAAG and Henry Koffler Exhibition at Ventana Gallery - Opens April 23

Southern Arizona Arts & Cultural Alliance and Ventana Medical Systems, Inc. (Ventana) present the Spring 2015 exhibition showcasing artwork by Henry Koffler and artists from the Southern Arizona Arts Guild.

(TUCSON, ARIZ.) Scientist, professor, scholar, administrator and President Emeritus of the University of Arizona—an impressive resume for anyone, but at age 91 Henry Koffler decided to add another title to his CV—artist.

It was during a long hospital stay and recovery that this lifelong lover of the arts decided to pick up a brush and begin creating himself. He quickly discovered his true medium using Autodesk Sketchbook Pro on his iPad. His final works are printed on a wide format printer.

“Almost all my paintings derive from my inner landscape. No doubt I am influenced by my many years as a microbiologist and molecular biologist, when I did research on structure-function relationships at the cellular and subcellular level. At times I cannot tell where my scientific memories end and my imagination begins” says Dr. Koffler.

Ventana founder, Dr. Thomas Grogan, has known Dr. Koffler since he was an associate professor at the University of Arizona and is thrilled his work will be displayed on the walls of the company that Dr. Koffler played a part in making a reality. “While teaching at the University of Arizona in the 1980s, I came up with my initial ideas to automate the slide staining process for diagnostics purposes, which marked the beginning of Ventana in 1985. When I originally proposed my idea for a company to the University of Arizona Legal department, I was told that my pursuit was not legally possible. Dr. Koffler, along with the Arizona Board of Regents, were instrumental in having the state laws changed to allow enterprises to be launched from the University. Thanks to these efforts, myself and many other inventors now have their intellectual property activities supported by the University, keeping key innovators in Arizona,” commented Dr. Grogan.

I can’t wait to see all of Dr. Koffler’s innovations come to life on the walls of Ventana on April 23—a show that exemplifies the place where art and science meet.”

Joining Dr. Koffler for the exhibition are artists from the Southern Arizona Arts Guild showing their colorful collection - The Red Show. The Red Show includes 39 original works of art in

acrylic, oil, watercolor, glass, encaustic, pastel, pigment print, digital colored pencil, photography, and mixed media, featuring the color red.

The Southern Arizona Arts Guild (SAAG) is an organization created to provide a forum for artists to study, share and show their artwork. The purpose of the Guild is to provide opportunities for the exchange of ideas through meetings, lectures, demonstrations and workshops. The Guild specifically supports the visual arts by encouraging, educating and promoting members' work through exhibitions while striving for high standards of quality. Through these efforts, SAAG inspires and promotes community awareness of the visual arts.

Artists displaying works in The Red Show are Linda Ahearn, Trisha Bergen, Carol Bjelland, Joe Bourne, Virginia Carroll, Dan Chavez, Jo Ann Daly, Pam Davidson, Rich Foster, Susie Gillat, Roz Greiver, Diane Haug, Sylvia Herrera, Luz Kattinge, Peter Knobloch, Paul Kopp, Judith Kramer, Jan Mayer, Lois McDonald, Jim Morris, Nancy Norton, Lorrie Parsell, Marty Plevel, Sally Raduenzel, Jo Ann Rom, Mike Rom, Dolores Root, Saudra Trumbull, and Debbi Weitzell.

On Thursday, April 23 from 5 to 7 pm, the public is invited to the opening night reception with light refreshments and a live acoustic performance. The artwork will be showcased through July 13, 2015. The Gallery is open to the public by appointment Monday to Friday from 9 am to 4 p.m., and on the first and third Saturday of each month from 10 am. to 2 pm. To schedule an appointment, visitors should call SAACA at (520) 797-3959 x 1. Advance notice of 48 hours is required.

Ventana Gallery – SAAG and Henry Koffler Opening Reception

When: Thursday, April 23 from 5 to 7 pm.

Where: Ventana Medical Systems, Inc., 1910 E. Innovation Park Dr., Tucson, AZ 85755

Cost: Free

Online: www.saaca.org

Phone: (520) 797-3959

About the Southern Arizona Arts and Cultural Alliance

The Southern Arizona Arts and Cultural Alliance (SAACA) is a not-for-profit organization that exists to ensure that, through engagement in arts and culture, our communities produce strong, inspired citizens. SAACA enlists artists, businesses, governments, and individuals to expand artistic and cultural opportunities in their respective communities. To enhance access to the arts and to promote cultural awareness in the communities it serves, SAACA presents large-scale festivals, events and other programs. The Alliance also promotes educational opportunities in the arts and culture for individuals of all ages.

For more information about programs and events produced by the Southern Arizona Arts and Cultural Alliance, go to www.saaca.org.

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