

Art Lovers Have a Ball



Nikki Roberts, Jodi Dickson and Michelle Rocca

It has been said that what comes out of the human spirit is art. It is this love for art that led to a special night here in Carlsbad that celebrated art and its importance as inspiration in our lives.

On February 25, the historic Ocean House (formerly Neiman's) was transported back in time through the first annual Carlsbad Masquerade, a Venetian Carnivale of art, music and dance. Sponsored by the Outdoor Art Foundation,



Richard Duquette and David Brahms

in association with the Carlsbad Village Business Association and Museum Artists Foundation, the Masquerade served as a fundraiser for the Outdoor Art Initiative. This Initiative seeks to fulfill a mission to place 30 significant pieces of art

the theme of the event, many guests dressed in stunning Venetian costume, and most donned colorful, feathered



Photo: www.mclanerieger.com

Moving sculpture by Jon Koehler

masks. More than 60 artists' works were displayed, and many of the artists themselves were present to answer questions about their work.

The evening began with greetings from Bill Ostrie,



Photo: www.mclanerieger.com

Luna and Alber de Matteis

in Carlsbad's Village to share with the world. These artistic displays would create a permanent showcase for local artists and would make the Village an art scene destination for tourists and locals alike.

The Masquerade proved to be an evening filled with magnificent music, art, dance and merriment for all. In line with

president of the Carlsbad Village Business Association, and the man credited with the vision to place these inspiring pieces of art in the Village. The evening also featured extraordinary entertainment by some of San Diego's finest musicians. Guests enjoyed the outstanding music of guitarist Jimmy Patton and pianist Yrsan Daro. The Small Opera of San Diego filled the building with their dramatic performance, and the Bayou Brothers got everyone dancing and closed the evening with their foot-tapping Cajun sound.

All in all, the night was a dazzling experience of creative energy and fun. According to Mikki Royce, executive director of the CVBA and the managing trustee of the Outdoor Art Foundation, "The event produced a magical night that will long be remembered. It was spectacular!" ●



Event organizers Bill Ostrie and Mikki Royce

For more information visit www.outdoorartinitiative.org