MISSION STATEMENT
The Tucson Botanical Gardens connects people with plants and nature through art, science, history and culture.

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This newsletter is published quarterly by Tucson Botanical Gardens and mailed as a benefit to members. All photos by Gardens staff and volunteers unless otherwise noted. Art Director, Rob Elias
Designer, Theresa Reindl Bingham

Duplicate Mailings?
If so, please contact Membership at (520) 326-9686, ext. *13.
“Plants … beckon you to immerse yourself in their presence.”

Recently on a walk through the Gardens, I was struck by how guarded some guests reacted to passersby. Plants, by contrast, beckon you to immerse yourself in their presence. It’s almost impossible to pass by Lamb’s-ear (*Stachys byzantine*) without rubbing its velvety leaves between your fingers, or stopping to allow the fragrance of a Vitex (*Vitex agnus castus*) overtake you. Today, as we all struggle with maintaining social distancing, public gardens, and our ability to connect with nature, are needed more than ever.

Which brings me to thanking you.

I’ve been touched to my very core by the outpouring of support from members and friends of TBG. Notes filled with snippets of expressions of love and appreciation ranged from a simple yet meaningful, “Thank You” to a woman who chuckled and said, “I love TBG – I told my husband that if the Gardens were ever to close their doors – you might as well just put me in a wooden box and bury me.” That’s a dedicated member!

Thanks to your support, we’ve been busy:

• It may have taken a pandemic to force us to make a major software change to manage and control numbers of people in the Gardens, but with every challenge comes an opportunity. The system goes live on September 1st and should result in a much smoother check-in process when you visit, attend a class or an event.

• As Luminaria Nights and Feast takes a 2020 break, the celebrations will continue in another form. Every Thursday through Sunday evening, beginning September 19th, we invite you to enjoy evening lights in the Garden beginning with:

  ○ *Bird Houses & Nests* – Lovely in the daylight, and dramatic in the evening, 13 artists have come together to create, “Bird House and Nests” curated by SculptureTucson.

  ○ *La Calavera Catrina* – We know that the pathways are narrow in the Barrio Garden, so we opened up the view and created a temporary new one-way-in, one-way-out pathway. The lights will shine on nine larger-than-life sculptures on loan from the Denver Botanic Gardens, and will guide you to the new Barrio entrance near the Zen Garden.

  ○ *Wander-Land: An Evening Holiday Stroll* – The Gardens is pulling out all the stops to create a magical holiday garden strolling experience. A near-garden-wide sound system playing holiday music will put you in the spirit. Holiday window displays along with a new oversized lighted sculpture in the Exhibit Garden by artist Joe O’Connell will join the 3,000 luminaria bags, Korean Lanterns and Nature Sculptures by Mykl Wells.

  ○ *The Gardens* – Adam and his team have done a remarkable job keeping up with pruning, planting and fertilizing. They have a surprise in store for you in the fall, but I’m pinky-sworn to not reveal too much – yet!

Check our website and newsletter for specific evening hours, and admission prices.

While many of us are sharing the everyday stresses that this new model of living has brought upon us, I can say without hesitation that I haven’t lost my hope and enthusiasm for the upcoming season – except this time, there’s a healthy dose of gratitude added to the mix.

Michelle Conklin
Executive Director

Echo Chanel Starmaker

“Plants … beckon you to immerse yourself in their presence.”
People love to show me their gardens and I love seeing the great diversity of gardens and their gardeners. Like many things in life, there is no singular “right way” to garden. That said, if I could change one thing in most Tucson gardening practice it would be the use of mulch. More to the point, the lack of mulch.

I’m not sure why or how, but the fundamental practice of mulching a garden and/or landscape is not a common practice in the Old Pueblo. The most common mulch around town is rock mulch, which makes since so many of our plantings are rightly desert themed. However, most of these mulches have been applied simply for aesthetic purposes and are not done in a way that provides the many benefits mulching brings to our plants.

Mulching is one of my favorite garden chores on a brisk fall morning. Many garden chores can take hours and at the end of the day nothing has changed to the naked eye. But after a few hours of mulching your work is immediately visible. In my opinion no landscape or garden bed is complete until it has been mulched.

A properly applied mulch shades the ground in summer and insulates it in the winter, which translates to +10 degrees cooler soil temps in summer and +10 degrees warmer temps in winter. Mulch prevents dust and soil erosion. It protects microbial soil life by shielding it from harmful UV light. It helps mitigate soil compaction from a gardener’s heavy feet. It prevents evaporation and organic mulch has the bonus of wicking excess moisture away, keeping soil moisture consistent and uniform. All in all, mulch is essential to a healthy soil ecology and health soil leads to healthy plants. As an added benefit, mulch is also quite attractive, it comes in a variety of colors and textures and can elevate the aesthetics of any planting.
To emphasize the benefits of mulch I like to share this antidote from my work with a community garden in WI:

Two years before I began my work at the Eagle Heights Community Gardens the garden community installed a hedge row of 100 highbush blueberries. Unfortunately, after two years the plants had little new growth and were showing signs of stress and nutrient deficiencies. In my first year I performed a soil ph test knowing blueberries preferred an acidic soil, the results showed a basic soil profile, so we added a good amount of Sulphur which greened up the plants, but at an unsustainable yearly expense. The next year my co-worker who was reading, Michael Phillips’s book The Holistic Orchard: Tree Fruits and Berries the Biological Way, suggested we try this particular style of mulching which increases mycelium that as a symbiotic relationship with roots, increasing their nutrient uptake. Long story short, by mulching 8” thick with recently pruned and chipped branches we doubles the size of the blueberry bushes and the next year they produced the first harvest. Thereafter, all we had to do was add two inches of mulch a year to maintain the 8” depth.

I hope you’re convinced to incorporate mulching in your gardens and landscape. If nothing else, the water retention benefit should be enough for any desert gardener to mulch religiously. The world of mulches is extremely diverse, each having strengths and weaknesses. However, do not let this overwhelm you, there are just a few rules of thumb for the mulching novice to ensure the benefits.

The first step is to choose your mulch. There are two broad categories of mulch: Organic (dead material like leaves, woodchips etc.) or Inorganic (rock, rubber etc.). I advise mixing in an eighth inch of compost as part of any mulching project. Whichever you choose, Organic or Inorganic, if you’re a beginner, it is best to use a mixed grade (chunk size) and/or a larger grade mulch. These grades allow for faster water percolation (good for our monsoons) and avoids matting (tight, solid layers) which can create an anaerobic (oxygen free) environment. As with any garden product, I encourage you to source your mulch as local as possible. One of our local partners is Tanks Green Stuffs which has a variety of locally produced mulches to choose from. I am also a big fan of pecan shells from the orchards of southern Arizona.

The next step is to figure out how much you need. This depends on how thick you want it to be. The least amount you can add and receive the soil ecological benefits is a depth of 2 inch which comes out to about 1 cubic yard for 160 square feet (don't worry, that’s what online mulch calculators are for). If you don’t want to mulch every year and you have the means to acquire enough material, you can mulch up to four inches all at once. More than 4in is only advisable for specific reasons and with specific mulches.

Now, all you need to do is water, then spread the compost and mulch evenly throughout the bed. I suggest overtop watering a few times right after mulching to prime and help stabilize the material. After more than 20 years of experience teaching people to mulch, I can tell you that 2 inches is deeper than you think, and you will be inclined not to use enough. The only other thing to remember is to keep it 2-3 inches away from the trunk or main stem of your plants and 3-4 inches away from the walls of your home or wooden structures.
When Michelle asked me if I would put together a curated gallery show on Roberto Burle Marx, my first question was, “Who?”

“You know, the famous Brazilian landscape architect.”

“Like that helps.”

But it did. I googled Burle Marx and it became immediately obvious that this guy was important. But, the exhibit, what would that entail? Other museums had delved into his art and landscape designs. I had neither the time, nor did the Gardens have a budget, to do the same. And then one day, while killing time in the Garden’s Edward McGibbon Library, I checked the card catalogue (remember those?). A solitary listing under “Brazil” revealed that the Gardens held a portfolio of botanical artwork (by Margaret Mee and included in TBG’s exhibit) for which Burle Marx had written the introduction. It was all about his field trips into the forest to collect plants.

That’s it! That’s the exhibit!

While the Gallery exhibits are closed to the public, I’d like to give you a glimpse of Burle Marx, the explorer and collector to help put into the context his landscape design philosophy, and his motivation as an environmentalist.

The curated exhibit evolved out of what I think he found on those trips; he brought back to civilization more than 3000 species for his landscape work, sure, but, he also extracted artistic inspiration from the indigenous peoples he encountered, from the play of sunlight on the little current ripples on the Amazon and Rio Negro Rivers, from the underside of a giant lily pad. He brough it all back. It all shows up in his artwork as well as his designs for gardens and public spaces.

The military junta that seized control of Brazil in the 1960s invited Burle Marx to join an advisory board on the cultural and environmental resources of his homeland. Not surprisingly, he parlayed his reputation as an explorer and designer into a political pulpit from which to defend the environment. Brazil had its national parks but they served largely as a smorgasbord of profitable eye candy that could be gifted to the junta’s friends and supporters. Burle Marx railed against the destruction that naturally followed; mining operations contaminated rivers, forest was burned (and still is today) to produce pasturage for cattle, tribes were enslaved, or moved, or simply made to disappear. Brazil’s national parks and the national heritage they defended, he reasoned, were for the people, all the people, and should not be sold off so cheaply. He said it all without mincing his words in a series of depositions, now published.

I encourage you to visit the Burle Marx inspired landscape installation at TBG. Designed by Jason Isenberg of REALM, the staff believe that the 200 cactus barrels planted against a sea of Amarnath, which is adjacent to a water wall inspired by artist himself, would make Burle Marx proud.

And so, I came to know Roberto, he’s my friend now and I call him that, and his importance to Brazil and the greater world. He’s worth the effort after all.
SCULPTURE TUCSON

Bird Houses and Nest

A GARDEN SCULPTURE EXHIBITION
September 26, 2020 – January 3, 2021

• 13 Objects
• 13 Artists
• Made especially for the Gardens

Artwork by (clockwise from top left): Greg Corman, Lon Walters, Phil Lichtenhan, Richard Jones, Judy Gans, Jeff Falk
WTGB offers a variety of educational videos from our Education Department featured on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram that you can explore at your convenience.

Family Fun Fridays:
Garden-focused demonstrations, including DIY Succulent Terrariums, How to Make Seed Bombs, Starting a Kitchen Garden from Scratch, Grow Your own Native Bird & Butterfly Garden, and more!

Virtual Storytelling from the Backyard:
featuring Children’s books from the fabulous TBG Gift Shop. Families can enjoy new stories and all books are available for purchase and shipped right to your door.

TBG Virtual Docent-Led Tours:
Enjoy FREE tours of our various themed Gardens with knowledgeable and engaging docents and volunteers. All tours are available on the Tucson Botanical Gardens YouTube channel.

WELLNESS
AROMATHERAPY FOR SELF-CARE
Natural Bath & Body Recipes with Essential Oils
Saturday, September 19, 10:00-11:30 a.m.
$28 Member/$35 Non-Member

Essential Oils for Mind and Mood
Saturday, October 17, 10:00-11:30 a.m.
$28 Member/$35 Non-Member

Green Cleaning with Essential Oils
Saturday, November 14, 10:00-11:30 a.m.
$28 Member/$35 Non-Member

BOTANICAL ART
Keeping a Botanical Sketchbook
Wednesday, September 23, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member

Botanical Art in Pen and Ink
Wednesday, October 7, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member

Creating Botanical Motifs and Patterns
Wednesday, October 21, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member

Beginning Ohara Ikebana:
The Gentle Art of Japanese Flower Arranging
Thursdays: October 8, 15, 22, 29 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Series of 4 Classes: $128 Member/$160 Non-Member

ART
Introduction to Modern Calligraphy
Wednesday, September 23, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member

Watercolor Butterflies
Wednesday, October 21, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member

Nature Journalist
Wednesday, November 11, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member
**GARDENING**

**Top 10 Shrubs for Landscaping**  
Wednesday, September 16, 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.  
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member

**DIY Desert Garden Design**  
Saturdays: October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31,  
Nov 7 – 9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.  
Series of 6 Classes: $96 Member/$120 Non-Member

**Top 10 Cactus for Landscaping**  
Wednesday, October 7, 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.  
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member

**The Cold Desert: Design, Protect and Enjoy Your Winter Container Garden**  
Thursdays: October 8, 15, 22  11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.  
Saturdays: October 10, 17, 24  11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.  
Series of 3 Classes: $44 Member/$55 Non-Member

**Pruning Desert Trees**  
Thursday, October 14, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member

**Sustainability Made Simple**  
Thursday, October 21, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member

**Petscapes**  
Thursday, October 28, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member

**Welcome to the Desert, Master Your Container Gardens**  
Thursdays: November 5, 12, 19  11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.  
Saturdays: November 7, 14, 21  11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.  
Series of 3 Classes: $44 Member/$55 Non-Member

**Pots, Pots, and More Pots – The Perfect Holiday Gift**  
Thursday, December 3, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Saturday, December 5, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member

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**NATURE & ECOLOGY**

**Amazing Arachnids**  
Friday, September 18, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
$24 Member/$30 Non-Member

**Owls: Rulers of the Night Skies**  
Friday, October 30, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
$24 Member/$30 Non-Member

**Hawks, Eagles, and Falcons**  
Friday, November 13, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
$24 Member/$30 Non-Member

**Devilish Plants**  
Friday, December 18, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
$24 Member/$30 Non-Member

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**CULINARY ARTS**

**A Sonoran Breakfast**  
Saturday, September 19, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member

**Sonora Hot and Cold – Caldo de Queso y Horchata de Melon**  
Saturday, October 10, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member

**Sonoran Sweets – Coyotas y Ponteduros**  
Saturday, October 24, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member

**Classic Pozole**  
Saturday, November 7, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member

**Tamales de Res Sonorenses**  
Saturday, November 28, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member
Thank You
... to the Gardens’ Rapid Response Donors

The following supporters provided urgently needed gifts to sustain the Gardens when it was forced to temporarily close due to the community-wide response to the COVID-19 virus. We are incredibly grateful to these generous donors, whose emergency gifts arrived from May 14 through July 31, 2020.

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- Anonymous-1
- Sandra & Shirley Brantly
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- Dorothy Kret & Michael Lex
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- Apple
- Anonymous-1
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**$500 TO $999**

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- AmazonSmile Foundation
- Julia Annas
- Apple
- Loretta Arvizu
- Moira Bailey & John Taylor
- Elaine Ball
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- Robie-Jean Chandler
- Lucy & David Chester
- Holly Chiasson & Sean Cox
- Maureen Clark

**UP TO $499**

- Anonymous-14
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- AmazonSmile Foundation
- Julia Annas
- Apple
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- Moira Bailey & John Taylor
- Elaine Ball
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**WITH GRATITUDE**

10 | Autumn 2020
MEMORIALS & TRIBUTES

Tucson Botanical Gardens has been nurtured by the encouragement and support of our members, their families and friends. The following donors, who made contributions between May 14 to July 31, 2020, wished their friends and loved ones to be remembered amid the Gardens’ natural beauty. We are inspired by their generosity.

GIFTS IN HONOR OF

Teri Bingham’s anniversary with Canyon Ranch ........................................ Canyon Ranch
Murray DeArmond on the occasion of his 85th birthday ................................. Terence De Carolis
Lynn Richards ................................................................. Jack & Cheryl Marine
Thomas & Jodi Sorensen ........................................................ Matthew Raphael

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

Joann Douthitt ................................................................................ Martha & Scott Cavell
Jack Grann .................................................................................... Robie-Jean Chandler
George Shriver ................................................................................ Alisha Mann
Ted Struble ........................................................................................ Karen Stern

COMMEMORATIVE TRIBUTE BRICK

Dottie Lofstrom ...................................................................................... In Memory of Bettie & Bob
.................................................................................................................. In Memory of Coziibear

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The following donors designated their generous contributions to the Gardens’ signature programs. We are grateful for their investments which were received between May 14 to July 31, 2020.

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Pima County Attractions and Tourism
Southwestern Foundation for Education and Historical Preservation
Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust

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Peggy M. Hitchcock

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Shannan Marty & Chris Pendleton

GIFTS-IN-KIND

Theresa Reindl Bingham
Certified Folder
Nina Duckett
Christine Flores & Robert Egan
Pro Em Party Concepts LLC
REALM, Un Urban Organics Company
Smart Card Services, LLC
Tank’s Roll-Off and Recycling
Thank you to these generous donors. The following donors came to the aide of the Gardens when summer temperatures were high and daily admissions were very low. Their gifts arrived between July 15 through July 31, 2020, just in time to provide care for the living collection.

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Jeff Timan & Robyn Kessler

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Dianne Janis & Ken Wilcox
Lynn & Dale Johnson
Marilyn Johnson
Celinda Johnson
Jeremy J. Johnson & Isadora Sholaas
Margaret E. & Norton Johnson
Rita Jones & Marge Botchie
Phillip & Samantha Julson
Robbi Justice

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Kathy A. Belk
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Chris Compton
Michael & Karen Fisher
Ann Gilbert
Wendy & Richard Gilman
Isabel B. Greig
Gail Craig-Jager & Jan Jager
Cynthia Cook-Keller & Thayer Keller
Karen Corey
Polly Cosyns
Gail Craig-Jager & Jan Jager
Janice Crebbis
Tim & Lorraine Creeston
Janice D. Crist

Stephanie Curtis & Troy Perez
Maureen & Hank Dallago
Sandra & Gary Darling
Beth Daunis & Phil Lipman
John Davenport
Mark DeLaney & Vicky Anderson
Jill Dean
Derry Dean
Christine DeFouw
Isabel & Raul Delgado
Carol des Cognets
Don & Karen DeYoung
Bryant Dietrich & Kayla Wang
Vida Dietz & Michael Cuno
Kristine Dillon & John Curry
Janice L. & Terry Donald
Susan Donohue
Karen Douglas
Andrew Downie
Marty Eberhardt & Philip Hastings
Anne Eccles
Patricia J. Eck & Michael A. Leingang
Rebecca Egbert
David & Patricia Eisenberg
Diane Eklund
Marietta Eklund & Dinna Elmquist
Rob Elias
Brenda Ellis
Heather Ellison & Gawain Lavers
Christina & Ivy Endress
Thomas & Joanna Erwin
Tom & Rosa Eurek
Joanne & Christopher Eustis
Grace Evans
Mike & Christine Fairman
Catherine Falvey
Ceci & Frank Ferraro
Gretchen Field & S Blythe Thompson
Edna Fielder & Walter Sipes
Veronica & Patricia Figueroa
Patricia Finfrock
Caryn & Jamison Fisher
Mark & Joanne Fitterer
Stephen Fletcher & Donna Boe
Daniel & Kristine Fontes
Thomas Ford & Anne Fitzgerald-Ford
Dayle & Hal Forsay
Fotoventures
Scharla & Ronwyn Fritz
Ronald A. Fullerton
Cynthia Funkees
Alison Furet
Anne Gagnon & Mary Anne Gagnon
Mary Gamache
Lydia Garcia Liu & Marco Liu
Wilda & Dan Garrett
Mary & Ken Gayer
Gary L. & Virginia C. Gethmann
Mary Jo Ghory
Sharon Gilbert
Rebecca & James Gill
Bruce Gillaspie
Sherry Gillingham
Rosanne Gilman
Harold Glasson & Patrick Hynes
Robert Glennon & Karen Adam
Virginia Goss & David Goetz
Nancy & Richard Gray
Linda D. Greenwood & David Koenig
Elizabeth B. Gricus
Virginia L. & David L. Griffis
Diane Gwozdz
Lynn & Bill Haak
John & Merideth Hale
Irene Hall
Barbara Hall & Richard Barber
Sara Hammond & David Fales
Derek Handwerk
Dee Hanon
Becky & Steve Hansen
Harlow Gardens
Rita J. Hartman
Ingrid & Jeanette Hartshorne
Michael & Jenny Hartung
Suzanne Hawkins
Fred Heath & Mary Kinkel
Neil E. Heiman
Cathy Hemler & Stephanie Bader
Dr. Shea Hersch
Trudy & Robert M. Hersch
Theresa Hersh & Rocco Santangelo
Katrinka & Holly Heyman
Barry & Fern Hieb
Susan Holland
Mitzi & Michael Holloway
Ruth Hoshaw
Patricia Houston
Linda Howard & Iris Veomett
Paula Hunsley
Merle Hunter
June & Bill Hussey
Peggy Hutchinson
John Ianno & Linda Hart
Anita M. Iannone
Nancy & Warren Ickes
Suzanne Irving
Jill Jackson-Mandel & David Mandel
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Tucson artist, Lucy Masterman, has spent her professional career creating images in vivid watercolor. A long-time member of TBG, she has spent hours exploring the grounds of the Gardens, which inspired her to create an exhibit which demonstrates the beauty of nature and the garden spaces that she loves.

Having grown up in Tucson, Lucy graduated from the University of Arizona, with a BFA in Commercial Art. She moved to Washington DC and while there, earned an MFA in Painting from George Washington University in conjunction with the Corcoran School of Art. She lived in Brooklyn, NY, then moved with her family to Kansas City, Missouri. While there, she participated in solo exhibits at several private galleries was well as national juried exhibitions, including Watercolor USA in Springfield, MO, the National Watermedia Biennial in Rochester, NY, and the Mid-Four Juried Art Exhibition at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, MO.

After having returned to Tucson, Lucy has had many solo exhibits, and has been honored at various local art and charitable events.

Although her images vary in subject matter—from vintage motel signs and scenes from travels in Mexico, to views of a field of wildflowers—Lucy consistently brings a fresh, clear sense of color and design to the world around her.
September 17 - November 29

La Calavera Catrina

Exhibition organized by Denver Botanic Gardens
Ricardo Soltero (b. 1962, Nayarit, México)

For the first time ever, La Calavera Catrina will be on exhibit outside of Denver, Colorado and will grace Tucson, Arizona with their presence.

Beginning September 17, guests of the Tucson Botanical Gardens will experience the rich history and iconography through colorful and joyful large-scale skeleton sculptures titled La Calavera Catrina.

HOURS: 8:30-4:30 Time Blocks:
8:30AM-10:30AM 10:30AM-12:30PM
12:30PM-2:30PM 2:30PM-4:30PM

SPECIAL EVENING HOURS Thurs. - Sun.
6:00PM-7:30PM 7:30PM-9:00PM

Evening hours are considered a special event and are ticketed separately from General Admission.

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