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**ART IN THE HIGH DESERT, A VISIT BEND CULTURAL TOURISM CENTERPIECE,  
RECEIVES RECORD NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR 2009 FESTIVAL  
110 Artists To Be Selected From 397 Applications Received From 23 States  
and Canada For August 28-30 Event in the Old Mill District**

(BEND, Ore.)—On the heels of Visit Bend’s recent announcement that it intends to dedicate additional resources toward promoting cultural tourism, one of the region’s foremost cultural events - Art in the High Desert - announced that it has received a record 397 applications for its 2009 festival. From this pool of applicants, 110 artists will be selected to display their works and offer them for sale during the 2009 Art in the High Desert festival, scheduled for August 28-30 in the Old Mill District.

The three-day event will feature the works of 110 nationally and internationally recognized artists. The Festival will once again emphasize a wide spectrum of new original art that includes paintings, photography, sculpture, jewelry, glasswork and more.

“Our goal is to provide art enthusiasts, buyers and collectors an opportunity to view and purchase a level of fine arts and craft that have not been seen before in Central Oregon,” said Carla Fox, director of Art in the High Desert.

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According to the 2009 edition of *Art Fair Source Book*, the nation's definitive guide to more than 600 of the country's the best art and craft fairs, Art in the High Desert "was extremely well organized and of very high quality overall, set in a beautiful site. Organizers proved that they know how to develop, build and sustain a great show."

"Art in the High Desert is one example of the many cultural events and festivals that make Bend so much more than a one-dimensional, recreation-focused destination," said Doug LaPlaca, president and CEO of Visit Bend. "From a cultural tourism standpoint, this festival has already done an outstanding job of putting us on the map and will no doubt point a national cultural spotlight on Bend this August."

About Art in the High Desert:

Art in the High Desert is produced by a non-profit, community-based group of local area artists and art advocates whose mission is to bring to the community an annual high quality art festival that explores and celebrates professional creative expression while enhancing the artistic identity of Central Oregon. Art in the High Desert strives to give back to the community by supporting the positive economic impact of the visual arts while honoring the artists for the value and skill of their handmade work. For more information visit [www.artinthehighdesert.com](http://www.artinthehighdesert.com) or e-mail [info@artinthehighdesert.com](mailto:info@artinthehighdesert.com).

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