



Spider Lilly
Linda Mahoney



Passion Flower
Cristina Rodriguez



Agave
Jo Prairie

Botanical Gardens' April 2 BIG BLOOM! opens 'Nature's Brush Strokes' art exhibition

CORPUS CHRISTI—South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center adds a new 'stroke' to its April 2 BIG BLOOM mega Plant Sale and Dollar Day. As if the event—with hundreds of stunning plants, butterfly and lady bug releases, parrot talks, reptile shows, wetland birding scopes and vendors—doesn't already boast enough color, 'Nature's Brush Strokes,' thirty-pieces of original vertical full-color art depicting South Texas wildflowers and native plants by area artists, opens that day on the Mary Hope Brennecke Nature Trail. This exhibit was funded by Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds by the City of Corpus Christi through the Arts & Cultural Commission, and sponsor **Joyce Barnette**.

Ninety eligible works were submitted for the juried competition. Artists photographed their original pieces in high resolution, submitting digital images which could be enlarged to 30 by 60-inch reproductions on vinyl mounted on dibond, the final weather-resistant products attached to custom-made two-sided art "pillars" along the trail, to be displayed through September. Each artist could submit up to three entries, with the winning thirty awarded \$200 each.

Winning artists receiving awards are: **Dinah Bowman (3), Myra Coward, Rebecca Enzinger, Laramie Fain, Donna Hamilton, Mary Kay Havelka, Sharon Hinojosa, Karen Kane, Levi Kennedy (2), Linda Mahoney (2), Lotus McElfish (3), Carol Neel, Renie Patty, Jo Prairie (3), Ola Rushing, Cristina Rodriguez, Joanne Rowley, Donna Sellars, Margie Skiles, Debb Sullivan (2), and Nathan Velez.** Honorable Mention: **Mollie Lyons**, exhibit title/sponsor pillar.

Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi, and Art Museum of South Texas provided jurors for 'Nature's Brush Strokes.' Arrow Display provided digital outdoor reproduction.

BIG BLOOM is open 9 am to 5 pm, with members admitted at 8 am. Major sponsors are NavyArmy Community Credit Union, Butterfly Releases; Flint Hills Resources, EcoFun Tent; H-E-B, Kids Zone. Dollar Day sponsors are City of Corpus Christi Solid Waste Services, NuStar Energy, Port Corpus Christi, Valero Energy Foundation, voestalpine Texas, and Whataburger.

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Bold Sunflowers
Renie Patty



Turk's Cap, Lantana
Dinah Bowman



Cactus
Donna Sellars