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Artist and Naturalist, Sharon K. Schafer



**NEWSMAKER:**

**Southern Nevada Artist Selected for Antarctic Polar Arts Program**

Boulder City, Nevada – Boulder City artist and naturalist, Sharon K. Schafer, has been selected for the prestigious Antarctic Polar Arts Program sponsored by Quark Expeditions. The Polar Arts Program is a truly unique global project bringing together artists from many nations, working in a range of art practices dedicated to experience and expression of the unsurpassed wilderness of the Earth's Polar Regions.

The project has operated since November 2003 and has created the opportunity for over 35 artists from 14 different nations to participate in 50 artist-in-residency positions onboard three expedition vessels, in the Arctic and Antarctic. The program includes at sea exhibitions, land-based exhibitions, as well as an opportunity for the artists to sketch, paint, and record media in an effort to develop their own creative practice from the experience.

Schafer will be leaving 20 October by Russian Icebreaker to travel to the to less-explored shores areas of the Antarctic peninsula to observe, photograph, and sketch Emperor penguins among other species early in the breeding season. She will keep a detailed illustrated journal of her experiences throughout the expedition from which she will later create paintings of polar life and landscape.

The Antarctic region is one of the most remote, beautiful and colorful places on our planet - abundant with wildlife and unique formations. The arts add to human experience of the Polar environment something of the complex and poetic sensory experience that artists can provide. "Science gives us an understanding of the natural environment; the arts allow us to see" is one theme of the program.

Schafer owns and operates Skydance Studio in southern Nevada. Her beautifully artistic yet scientifically accurate images appeal to the art collector and the environmental educator alike. Fittingly, Skydance Studio demonstrates and encourages value, protection, and conservation of the natural world in its products and operation.

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