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Let the Bidding Begin: Art for the Animals Online Auction Starts

Doggies, kitties, horsies, too. We've got butterflies, turtles, a wolf, a pig and a spotted something that we're having trouble categorizing. We've got 'em all.

We asked for animal-themed art and the Inland region responded.

Now the donated masterpieces are available to the public. The Riverside County Department of Animal Services launched its 5th Annual Art for the Animals online bidding auction.

A special free, wine-and-cheese event is planned this Friday in Palm Springs. Some of the art will be available for viewing – and a computer will give everyone a chance to make an online bid, if so desired. The wine-and-cheese event happens 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Desert Art Center, 550 N. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, 92262.

Enjoy art? There are more than 200 pieces featured. All of the artwork is available on Animal Services' Web site, www.rcdas.org – or simply click on this link: <http://www.rcdas.org/afa/index.html>

“We're thrilled at the amazing generosity from local artists,” said Betsey Webster, an Animal Services deputy director who oversees the Community Outreach & Education Division. “We're always especially tickled at how the young artists get excited about helping our animals.”

Money raised in the online bidding goes toward helping Riverside County shelter special needs animals.

The donated art comes from children and adults from throughout Riverside County. One adult artist from Indio donated an acrylic painting of a galloping horse valued at hundreds of dollars. A teacher at

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Loma Vista Middle School in the Alvord Unified School District once again rallied her students to participate. And a Riverside artist offered up his painting services for a future piece of art.

That artist said he will award the highest bidder with a painted portrait of the winner and their pet. There is a \$100 minimum bid for that donated art project – but no other artwork requires a minimum bid.

In other words, you could get a future Picasso's early artwork for as little as a buck!

Please note that the bidding closes Dec. 5.

This marked the first time Animal Services also solicited literary entries during Art for the Animals. Those entries – more than 80 – are currently being reviewed by a panel of judges.

An award ceremony is planned for December to honor all the winning artists and writers.

www.rcdas.org

“More Love by the Pound”