

# 10. 28<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL RIO GRANDE ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL - BALLOON FIESTA SHOW

Albuquerque, New Mexico; October. Produced by Ruth Gore/Rio Grande Festivals.

Rounding out this year's top 10 fine art and design shows, the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Rio Grande Arts & Crafts Festival – Balloon Fiesta Show once again proved itself in the fine art show circuit. Moving up one spot from the #11 position in 2015, this year all **SA 200 Best** voters said they made over \$10,000 each at this show. This is an improvement over last year, where no voters reported individual sales over \$10,000.

In a **SA FastAudit** review of the Rio Grande Arts & Crafts Festival – Balloon Fiesta Show, Arizona and National Reporter, David Schneider gave a well-rounded synopsis of the type of buyers found at this show. "There are out-of-town people who are looking for small items that fit into suitcases. [There are] out-of-town people who are looking to have a larger item for their home and are willing to pay to have it shipped. [There are] local people who are getting a jump on early Christmas shopping, and local people who have been waiting for their favorite artists to be at the show so they can make a major purchase they have been saving for."

This year, promoters announced that the festival's famous "big white tent" will be in front of the beautiful Sandia Resort and Casino, closer than ever to the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta Show.



# 11. CHERRY CREEK ARTS FESTIVAL

Denver, Colorado; July. Produced by the Cherry Creek Arts Festival.

Slipping eight places in the 2016 **Sunshine Artist 200 Best** shows in the fine art and design show category, the Cherry Creek Arts Festival still had plenty of support from exhibitors. Of the ballots received regarding the Denver-based summer festival, 75 percent of voters reported earning between \$5,000-\$10,000, and 25 percent \$2,000-\$5,000.

The sole criterion for getting into this prestigious western U.S., show is "artistic excellence of original, handcrafted work."

In a **SA FastAudit** review of the 2015 show, auditors agreed: sales were solid and strong for them, too. One fiber artisan commented, "Management, attendees, sales, site/city, and fellow artists all made for a great experience." With a goal of the festival to "provide the public and our selected exhibitors an experience of unparalleled quality," it's easy to see why the Cherry Creek Arts Festival is a success year-after-year.

# 12. COCONUT GROVE ARTS FESTIVAL

Miami, Florida; February. Produced by the Coconut Grove Arts and Historical Association, Inc.

The three-day Coconut Grove Arts Festival brings in artists from all over the world — ensuring quality and variety. The festival climbed up in rank in the 2016 **Sunshine Artist 200 Best** in the fine art category, from #23 to #12.

Half of this year's **SA 200 Best** voters reported earning over \$10,000 at the show, while the other half made \$5,000-\$10,000. Entry to this juried show is a challenge, as over 1,300 applications are received and less than 400 are chosen to exhibit at the festival. Nearly 120,000 people walk the streets of this outdoor show each year, making it a popular stop for fine art enthusiasts.

While admission for patrons is \$15 per person per day, children under 12 are free. Guests can also dine at the Global Food Village on the grounds of the show.

New for the 2017 festival, there will be People's Choice and purchase awards given out to winning exhibitors. There will also be a new membership program with pre-committed art bucks.