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## **NEWS RELEASE – APRIL 29, 2009**

### **ART IN PUBLIC PLACES AT CITY HALL JENNIFER RUGGIERO PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT – MAY/JUNE 2009 RECEPTION 5-6 P.M., TUESDAY, MAY 12**

Art in Public Places at City Hall features an exhibit of color and black-and-white photography by Jennifer Ruggiero during May and June 2009. A reception for the artist will be hosted by the Public Arts Advisory Committee from 5 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, prior to the City Council meeting at Twentynine Palms City Hall.

Born and raised in New York City, with a lifelong passion for music and art, photographer Jennifer Ruggiero's pursuit of a music career brought her from the Jazz clubs of New York to the entertainment industry in Los Angeles in the late 1970s.

Deciding to stay, she married, raised three children, and became an Interactive Producer and Designer on projects for HBO, Comedy Central, Mattel, and Warner Brothers. Later, she switched to a career in education, designing and teaching classes in Digital Imaging and Interactive Design.

Throughout her life and various careers, Ruggiero has maintained an enduring interest in photography—photographing people, nature, and desert landscapes.

She discovered Wonder Valley during the 2005 Open Studio Art Tours, and eventually bought her own desert cabin. "The landscape and night sky touched my soul, and I knew that I had to find a way to become part of this mysterious and captivating place," Ruggiero says in her artist's statement. In recent years, her photography repertoire has expanded to include abandoned homesteads throughout the high desert area.

Ruggiero's photography is on display through June 30 at Twentynine Palms City Hall, 6136 Adobe Road. Hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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