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Ten in One: A Cirque-ish Event
Mesa Arts Center's Season Kickoff Festival
Friday, September 12

For Immediate Release

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Mesa, AZ – Mesa Arts Center's (MAC) free season kickoff festival, titled *Ten in One: A Cirque-ish Event*, will celebrate the enchanting art of circus, on Friday, Sept. 12, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. MAC's campus will be filled with circus-inspired vignettes, including aerial hoop and tight wire performances, a mythical mermaid performer, contortionists, hand balancing, stilt walkers, jugglers and fire eaters. Other features of the festival include five new Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum (MCAM) exhibitions, entertainment across campus, delicious fair foods, art studio demonstrations, and hands-on experiences for people of all ages.

Coinciding with the festival will be the opening reception of circus-themed exhibitions in the MCAM. Exhibitions will be celebrated from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the museum's courtyard, with musical entertainment by Trio Rio, a cash bar and an opportunity to meet the artists.



Ten-in-One

Contemporary Art Goes Circus

Ten-in-One, which is a reference to sideshow attractions, focuses on artists whose works embody the circus aesthetic with a contemporary twist. The exhibition features 10 acts (10 artists) in one show: Carrie Battista, Lisa Brawn, Tyson Grumm, Shawn Ray Harris, Jan Huling, Martin Janecky, Sergei Isupov, Jessica Joslin, Liz McGrath and Mike Stilkey. These artists capture spectacle and

entertainment that circuses provide as well as the resonating influences they continue to have on popular culture.

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**Still Moving: Imagining the Circus in a New Way
Photographs by Bertil Nilsson**

The contemporary circus builds on the old traditions of the circus while fusing it with theatre and dance practice. In his photographs, Swedish artist Bertil Nilsson captures the beauty of human form as well as fortitude of these modern day performers. His work provides a glimpse of a mysterious world, where dedication and extensive training are all part of the profession.



**Sideshow
by Luster Kaboom**

“Around the corner and tucked out in the night there's a wagon with a cage that's filled with fright. A big ugly monster from God knows where, one look into his eyes and you'll surely be scared. But really is he all that bad? Maybe he's lonely, maybe

he's sad. We should go see him and feed him some candy and if he eats us instead, I'm sure that will be dandy. Let's all go, go to the Sideshow!”



**Circus Today
Pencil Drawings by Mark McDowell**

A painter, printmaking and fine art book publisher, Arizona artist Mark McDowell has become known for his distinctively graphic focused drawings in colored pencil on birch wood panels. *Circus Today* features McDowell's latest body of work, which showcases the classic imagery often associated with circuses: acrobatic performers, animal acts, sideshow curiosities, and of course, the iconic big top tent.



**The Ringmaster
Philip C. Curtis' Circus Art**

Arizona icon Philip C. Curtis continues to captivate and inspire with his surrealist art. Dubbed the “Magritte of the Old West,” Curtis became known for his metaphoric imagery and elongated Victorian figures in barren desert landscapes. His caged animals, band wagons and parade processions, which are the focus of this exhibition, provide a glimpse into the bygone era of the traveling circus.

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Mesa Arts Center is located at 1 E. Main Street in downtown Mesa. There is no charge to attend the Season Kickoff Festival or the Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum's opening reception, and parking is free. More information can be found at MesaArtsCenter.com or by calling 480-644-6500.

Editor's Note: Images are available for download via Mesa Arts Center's online Press Room at <http://www.mesaartscenter.com/index.php/misc/about/press-room/login> (Password is macmedia).

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About Mesa Arts Center

The Mesa Arts Center, owned and operated by the City of Mesa, is a unique, architecturally stunning facility located in the heart of downtown Mesa. Arizona's largest arts center is home to four theaters, five art galleries, and 14 art studios. Guests, patrons, and students come to Mesa Arts Center to enjoy the finest live entertainment and performances, world-class visual art exhibitions, and outstanding arts education classes. The Mesa Arts Center mission is to inspire people through engaging arts experiences that are diverse, accessible, and relevant. For more information, visit mesaartscenter.com.