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Five New Exhibitions Opening in Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum

Opening reception to be held Feb. 9, 2018

Nov. 27, 2017 (Mesa, AZ) – Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum (MCAM) will celebrate the opening of five exhibitions at a free reception on Friday, February 9, 2018, 7-10 p.m. Spring exhibitions include *Halfway Between the Earth and Stars*, by Kathryn Maxwell (opening Dec. 10, 2017); *As Above*, by Mary Shindell (opening Jan. 20, 2018); *Docents Select: Kitchen Sink*, featuring works from the Permanent Collection (opening Jan. 20, 2018); *39th Annual Contemporary Crafts* exhibition, juried by Bruce Hoffman, Director of Gravers Lane Gallery in historic Chestnut Hill area of Philadelphia; and *Memories of an Idyllic Landscape*, by Tiffany C. Bailey. The reception will feature musical entertainment by Keith Johnson, light refreshments, cash bar and an opportunity to meet and visit with the artists whose work is on view.

Halfway Between the Earth and Stars

Kathryn Maxwell

Dec. 10, 2017 – March 25, 2018

South Gallery

In her latest body of work, Arizona artist Kathryn Maxwell combines images of constellations, the moon, and the molecular structure of DNA. Originally inspired by Carl Sagan's statement "we are made of stardust," Maxwell explores the connection of the micro and macro, the terrestrial and celestial. Kathryn Maxwell is a 2017 proposal winner.

As Above

Mary Shindell

Jan. 20 – April 8, 2018

North Gallery

Arizona artist Mary Shindell's mixed media installation explores the relationship between environments found on our planet and others in the solar system, specifically focusing on the Arizona terrain and our state's impact on space exploration. Shindell incorporates botanical elements from research and observatory sites in Arizona as well as geological and topographical elements found on Earth, Mars and Pluto. The artist invites the viewer to experience the installation as planetary researcher and have a sense of physical place where scientific research originates and becomes part of the physical world. Mary Shindell is a 2017 North Gallery proposal winner.

Docents Select: Kitchen Sink

Works from the Permanent Collection

Jan. 20 – April 8, 2018

SRP Gallery

As with most museums, the Mesa Contemporary Arts (MCA) Museum Docents are central to the functionality of the museum. Through their volunteer efforts and assistance, tours are conducted, artwork is researched, special talks are prepared and opening receptions succeed. This exhibition is entirely curated by the MCA

Museum Docents and demonstrates some of the research they have conducted on pieces from the permanent collection that center around the kitchen.

39th Annual Contemporary Crafts

Feb. 9 – April 15, 2018

Main Gallery

Highlighting the finest in contemporary crafts from across the country, Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum's Annual Contemporary Crafts exhibition has become "a benchmark for innovation and quality," says Curator Patty Haberman. Representative of traditional craft mediums, the exhibition includes ceramics, fibers, basketry, metals, wood, glass, jewelry, papermaking and book arts. Guest Juror for the *39th Annual Contemporary Crafts* exhibition is Bruce Hoffman, Director of Gravers Lane Gallery in historic Chestnut Hill area of Philadelphia

Memories of an Idyllic Landscape

Tiffany C. Bailey

Feb. 9 – April 22, 2018

Project Room

Tiffany C. Bailey's ceramic work reflects the topography of her childhood home in Southwestern Wisconsin. Inspired by the landscape and agricultural architecture, her porcelain work reimagines an idyllic place and time that is both contemporary and iconic. Detailed renderings, subtle textures and a marriage of representational and abstract forms create a visual vocabulary of place that is intimate yet expansive. Tiffany C. Bailey is the *38th Annual Contemporary Crafts* exhibition Juror's Choice winner.

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About Mesa Arts Center

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 multidisciplinary arts center is home to four theaters, five art galleries in the MCA Museum, 14 art studios and The Store, an artist's cooperative gallery. Guests, patrons, and students come to Mesa Arts Center to enjoy the finest live entertainment, performances and festivals, 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.