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**Five New Exhibitions Opening in Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum, including the
40th Annual Contemporary Craft exhibition**

Opening reception to be held February 8

January 8, 2019 (Mesa, AZ) – Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum (MCAM) will celebrate the opening of five exhibitions with a free reception on Friday, February 8, 7-10 p.m. Spring exhibitions include *Angels and Carnivorous Flowers*, featuring paintings by Carrie Ann Baade; *First Impressions* a 5-year retrospective of the Museum's annual print calendar (already on view); the *40th Annual Contemporary Craft* exhibition, juried by independent curator Luiza deCamargo, and highlighting contemporary work in traditional craft mediums; *Patterns of Obsession* by 2-D artist Janet Towbin; and *Survival Instincts*, by ceramic artist Elliott Kayser. The reception will feature musical entertainment by The Dusty Ramblers Project, light refreshments, cash bar and an opportunity to meet and visit with the artists whose work is on view.

Angels and Carnivorous Flowers

Carrie Ann Baade

January 18 – April 14, 2019

Carrie Ann Baade's lush oil paintings link historical masterworks with contemporary experience. Her work mines images from antiquity to the modern era, and she uses these pieces as a foundation to construct surreal landscapes inhabited by otherworldly figures and electric flora and fauna. The artist establishes a dialog with the past, injecting a contemporary voice and reinterpreting the historical fragments using her original feminist and autobiographical perspective.

Carrie Ann Baade will also give an artist talk, *Symbol, Myth and Metaphor*, at Mesa Community College Art Gallery, free, Thursday, Feb. 7 at 7:30 p.m. In this talk, the artist reveals her research methods and development of her narrative paintings. Delving into the stories from the past and historical masterpieces, Baade reinvigorates and reinterprets symbols and allegories for an audience in the 21st century. This talk will also address the artist's process and looks at cycles of creation that are useful and inspiring for art makers and appreciators alike. [More information.](#)

Carrie Ann Baade is a 2018 proposal winner.

First Impressions

Print Calendar 5-Year Retrospective (2015-2019)

December 7, 2018 – March 24, 2019

First Impressions is the second retrospective exhibition that showcases all the prints that have been part of the Mesa Contemporary Arts Annual Print Calendar for the last five years. Featuring artists from across the country, the prints, range from relief prints to screen prints as well as etchings to lithographs. The exhibition also features the jurors who made the selection choices each year: Aaron Coleman, Jean Makin, Dan Mayer, Mark McDowell and Wendy Willis.

Individual prints for sale and all proceeds will benefit MCA Museum exhibitions and engagement programs.

40th Annual Contemporary Crafts

February 8 – April 21, 2019

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. Representative of traditional craft mediums including ceramics, fibers, basketry, metals, wood, glass, jewelry, papermaking and book arts, this exhibition showcases 53 artworks by 50 artists, representing 13 states.

Guest Juror for the 40th Annual Contemporary Crafts exhibition was Independent Curator Luiza deCamargo.

Patterns of Obsession

Janet Towbin

January 18 – April 14, 2019

A love of pattern is evident throughout Janet Towbin's drawings, paintings and prints. Towbin creates complex images from simple lines and shapes that have been repeated in an orderly, obsessive manner. Among the selection of work in this exhibition are mirrored patterns inspired by an eclectic mix of subjects such as tribal tattoos, historical textiles, curled ribbons, psychedelic art of the Sixties and intricate patterns formed by a decorative interlocking tessellated shape.

Janet Towbin is a 2018 North Gallery proposal winner.

Survival Instincts

Elliott Kayser

February 8 – April 21, 2019

Using the cow as a symbol for America's agricultural landscape, Elliott Kayser's clay sculpture links the viewer to the land, its history and cultural beliefs. Kayser began working with family farmers and learned how the forfeiting of responsibility for our resources has led to the loss of these farms and the careful stewardship of land and animal they have historically overseen. His work seeks to reestablish a connection to the

means of production of our food and in doing so renew the value we place on our resources.

Elliott Kayser is the 39th Annual Contemporary Crafts exhibition Juror's Choice winner.

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Editor's Note: Images are available upon request.

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, and 14 art studios. 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.