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**Five New Exhibitions Opening in Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum, including the
41st Annual Contemporary Craft exhibition**

Opening reception to be held February 14, 2020

December 17, 2019 (Mesa, AZ) – Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum (MCAM) will celebrate the opening of five exhibitions with a free reception on Friday, February 14, 7-10 p.m. Spring exhibitions include *A State of Being*, a cross-cultural exchange featuring works by Chinese artist He Gong and Arizona artist Mark Pomilio; *Letting Go of Utopia*, with paintings by Jenny Day; *41st Annual Contemporary Crafts*, juried by former MCAM curator Patty Haberman and highlighting contemporary work in traditional craft mediums; *Ketchup=Red, Mustard=Yellow*, by ceramic artist Kazuma Sambe; and *Color is King: The Hunter Orange Series*, with weavings by Morris David Dorenfeld, Juror's Choice winner of the *40th Annual Contemporary Craft* exhibition. The reception will feature musical entertainment by Broken-Hearted Blues Band, light refreshments, cash bar and an opportunity to meet and visit with the artists whose work is on view.

A State of Being

He Gong and Mark Pomilio

Dec 6, 2019 - Mar 29, 2020

A cross-cultural exchange, this exhibition brings together the dynamic black and white works of Chinese artist He Gong and scientifically inspired geometric imagery of Arizona artist Mark Pomilio. Their friendship was forged several years ago during a residency program in Cheng du, China that He Gong hosted and Pomilio attended. Even with contrasting methods and subject matter, He Gong and Pomilio's work capture the complexity of artistic expression and the human experience.

Letting Go of Utopia

Jenny Day*

January 17 – April 5, 2020

Jenny Day takes the viewer on an evolutionary journey of broken, psychological landscapes depicted in large, mixed media paintings. In *Letting Go of Utopia*, Day asks the question: How many ways can one approach mourning? Through an assemblage of Instagram snippets, sour jokes and heartbreak, Day covers her deconstructed surfaces with superficial ornamentation, like glamour and glitter, as a metaphor for the ways in which we mask our own emotional scars.

*Jenny Day is a 2019 proposal winner.

41st Annual Contemporary Crafts

February 14 – April 19, 2020

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 60 artworks by 51 artists, representing 12 states.

Guest Juror for the *41st Annual Contemporary Crafts exhibition* was Patty Haberman, Chief Curator of MCA Museum at Mesa Arts Center for 22 years until her retirement in early 2019.

Ketchup = Red, Mustard = Yellow

Kazuma Sambe*

January 24 – April 12, 2020

Ceramic artist Kazuma Sambe explores the cultural interactions between the international food industry and the creative, and oftentimes, strange logic of its advertising. He synthesizes traditional hand-building techniques of oriental sculpture with food advertising and packaging. His current focus: SAUCE, which adds zest, flavor, or piquancy to raw foods, is the inspiration behind the newest element incorporated into his work: COLOR.

*Kazuma Sambe is a 2019 proposal winner.

Color is King: The Hunter Orange Series

Morris David Dorenfeld*

February 14 – April 26, 2020

A painter at heart and by training, Maine artist Morris David Dorenfeld uses the loom as his canvas and creates wool "paintings". The weavings are geometric abstract designs that emphasize simplicity, harmony, proportion, balance, and above all, the visual "music" of color. Hunter Orange, the brilliant primary color, is the subject of his most recent series, where COLOR IS KING.

*Morris David Dorenfeld is the *40th Annual Contemporary Crafts* exhibition Juror's Choice winner

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