



MESA ARTS CENTER



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Mesa Arts Center kicks off the 2022-23 season with a free community celebration**



## **Season Kickoff Festival: Make Your Mark Friday, September 9 | 6-10 p.m.**

**Mesa, AZ – Mesa Arts Center** will launch its 2022-23 season with a free, family-friendly festival titled **Make Your Mark** on **Friday, September 9, 6-10 p.m.** The Season Kickoff Festival is themed **Make Your Mark**. The theme plays on a larger call to action to “make your mark in society” and have a purpose-driven life but is also a tongue-in-cheek reference to New York City’s anti-graffiti campaign during the 1980s: “Make your mark in society, not on society.”

The event invites the community to experience the Mesa Arts Center campus as we open our studios and unveil four new visionary art exhibitions at Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum.

Headlining Mesa Contemporary Art Museum’s Fall season is the legendary provocateur Ron English, best known for blending American iconography with art history themes to create social and political commentaries on contemporary American society.

Festival Highlights include event host Mo from Alt. AZ 93.3 FM, live music by DJ Pickster, Breaklot, Abby Walker, Sophie Dorsten and Elmo Kirkwood. New art

exhibitions in Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum, shopping at The Store featuring items by Arizona artists, delicious food from Taqueria Las Palmas, Classic Crepes, Yoi Hibachi, Bonzai Boyz, Fried Joint Sonora Sam's and more! Unique public art installations by Daniel Funkhouser, Melissa Martinez, Noelle Martinez, Matt Smith, Eric Torres, Sarah Hurwitz, Lalo Cota, Amanda Clayton and Jason Begay.

Don't miss out on family fun activities: by i.d.e.a. Museum and Arizona Museum of Natural History the Glow Zone, Sticker Swap, Selfie Stations, Art Studio Demos, Tabletop Games, Comic Book Creation, Augmented Reality, Live Graffiti Demo and more!

Details of the Mesa Contemporary Art Museum exhibitions are below:

### ***The Moleskine Project***

**September 9 – December 4, 2022**

The Moleskine Project is a collective exhibition of customized sketchbooks by hundreds of emerging and established artists from across the globe. The exhibition spans various artistic styles and mediums, delving into how artists sketch and develops creative ideas. The exhibition, which made its initial debut at Spoke Art San Francisco in 2011, is a continuation of that project where artists are provided with a blank Moleskine book and invited to create an original work of art within its pages.

\* Curated by Harman Projects (New York City)

### ***Living in Delusionville***

**Ron English**

**September 9, 2022 – January 22, 2023**

Known as the Godfather of Street Art, Ron English has emerged as one of the most influential and controversial artists of our time. Taking direct inspiration from the legendary Andy Warhol, English merges American iconography with art history to create social and political statements about contemporary American society. From Ronald McDonald to Mickey Mouse, no cultural icon is sacred. *Living in Delusionville*, which is also the title of the latest documentary on the artist, features 37 paintings and sculptures by English from the last decade.

### ***Dark Matter***

**Giorgiko**

**September 9, 2022 – January 29, 2023**

Giorgiko (pronounced jee-OR-jee-koh) is a collaborative experiment by husband-and-wife California artist team Darren and Trisha Inouye. Conceived in 2012, the Giorgiko universe is home to lost boys and wayfaring girls and explores the stories of their wanderings and dreams of being found again. Through minimal, expressive

character illustrations, Giorgiko's classically designed large-scale paintings playfully capture urban and classical youth in city and nature scenes as part of their journeys through the world.

\* Organized by Thinkspace Projects (Los Angeles, CA)

### ***Children of Divorce***

**Reen Barrera**

**September 9, 2022 – January 15, 2023**

Inspired by his “toy deprived” childhood, Filipino artist Reen Barrera repurposes found materials into mixed media figurative sculptures and paintings. The facial expressions and symbols and patterns in the artist's ohlala characters are drawn from the idiom “it's written all over your face” and represent the power individuals have in designing their own fate. Barrera's work provides a provocative conversation on the challenges of socioeconomic circumstances and classism.

\* Organized by Thinkspace Projects (Los Angeles, CA)

### ***Like Father, Like Son***

**Such and Champ Styles**

**September 9, 2022 – January 1, 2023**

This exhibition features the latest individual and collaborative paintings by Phoenix father and son duo Such and Champ Styles. Dedicated to the historical foundation and spirit of aerosol, this family graffiti team often incorporates popular culture icons, like Howard the Duck and Hello Kitty, into their graphic lettering and motifs.

Mesa Arts Center is located at One East Main Street in downtown Mesa. There is no charge to attend the Season Kickoff Festival or the Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum's opening and parking is free. For details visit [mesaartscenter.com/seasonkickoff](https://mesaartscenter.com/seasonkickoff)

The season kickoff event is generously sponsored by AARP, SRP, Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport and Crescent Crown Distributing.

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### **ABOUT MESA ARTS CENTER**

Mesa Arts Center, owned and operated by the City of Mesa, is a unique, architecturally stunning, international award-winning 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 facility is an architectural showpiece and a destination for

visitors to the Phoenix area. Mesa Arts Center's mission is to invite all people to create and discover entertaining, challenging and diverse art and arts experiences within joyous, dynamic and welcoming environments. For more information, visit [mesaartscenter.com](http://mesaartscenter.com).