



MESA ARTS CENTER



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Images/Videos: [HERE](#)

## **Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum Spring 2023 Exhibitions including the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Contemporary Craft Exhibition**

### **Opening Reception Friday, February 10 | 6-10 p.m.**

Mesa, AZ – **Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum** will celebrate the opening of five new exhibitions with a free reception, musical entertainment by Hooter's Blues, featuring Gypsy's Wild Harp and a cash bar on **Friday, February 10, 2023, from 6 – 10 p.m.**

Spring exhibitions include *Shared Places*, graphite, oil and encaustic works of Michelle Stuhl and Howard Werner's wood sculptures; *(un) Familiar Faces: Phase II* featuring the collage portraits of Sebastiao Pereira; *Looking at Nature* by Tucson artist and Naturalist Brooke Molla, who captures the natural world in her woodcut prints; *Urban Portraits* by Jim S. Smoote II, whose painting and traditional quilting techniques explore the beauty of portraiture and Black representation as well as *The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Contemporary Crafts* exhibition featuring the finest in contemporary crafts from all across the country.

#### ***Shared Places***

**New Work by Michelle Stuhl and Howard Werner**

**December 16, 2022 – March 19, 2023**

*Shared Places* features the latest work by Michelle Stuhl and Howard Werner. The work is inspired by environments in Arizona, New York City and the Catskill Mountains, where they divide their time and studios. Through graphite, oil and encaustic, Stuhl captures the contrasting natural and manmade landmarks of the three locations. A master woodworker, Werner is influenced by tribal cultures and creates clean, minimalist carved designs while maintaining the integrity of the raw material.

\* Michelle Stuhl and Howard Werner are 2019 proposal winners.

***(un) Familiar Faces: Phase II***  
**Sebastiao Pereira**

### **January 13 – April 2, 2023**

Born in Brazil, Phoenix artist Sebastiao Pereira is known for his large-scale, photorealistic portraits. Pereira creates his collages from recycled art magazines, which are cut into squares and arranged in a mosaic pattern. From chefs and teachers to health care providers and artists, Pereira's latest work expands on a pre-existing series that represents his friends and brings together a diverse community of individuals from all walks of life.

\* Sebastiao Pereira is a 2021 proposal winner.

### ***Looking at Nature***

**Brooke Molla**

### **January 27 – April 9, 2023**

Tucson artist and Naturalist Brooke Molla observes and captures the natural world in her woodcut prints. Without the assistance of a printing press, Molla often hand-embellishes her work with sewing and embroidered details. From leaves and feathers that blow under the door during a storm to insects caught in spiderwebs, Molla gains inspiration from overlooked objects and insight into the drama that surrounds us.

\* Brooke Molla is a 2021 proposal winner.

### ***44th Annual Contemporary Crafts***

### **February 10 – April 23, 2023**

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. This exhibition is representative of traditional craft mediums, including ceramics, fibers, basketry, metals, wood, glass, jewelry, papermaking and book arts.

Guest Juror for the *44th Annual Contemporary Crafts* exhibition was Ariel Zaccheo, Curator of the Museum of Craft and Design in San Francisco, California.

### ***Urban Portraits***

**Jim S. Smoote II**

### **February 10 – April 9, 2023**

Through painting and traditional quilting techniques, Chicago artist Jim S. Smoote II explores the beauty of portraiture and Black representation. Smoote combines humor with contemporary urban and pop culture references to create political or provocative commentaries.

\* Jim S. Smoote II is the *43rd Annual Contemporary Crafts* exhibition Juror's Choice winner.

### **Museum Hours:**

Mon: CLOSED

Tue – Sat: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sun: Noon-5 p.m.

For more information, visit [mesaartscenter.com/mcam](https://mesaartscenter.com/mcam) or call 480-644-6560.

Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum is located at 1 East Main Street in downtown Mesa, AZ, 85201. Admission is always free.

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### **ABOUT MESA CONTEMPORARY ARTS MUSEUM**

Mesa Arts Center's (MAC) mission is to invite all people to create and discover entertaining, challenging and diverse art and arts experiences within joyous, dynamic and welcoming environments. As part of Mesa Arts Center, Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum (MCA Museum) showcases the best in Contemporary Art by emerging, nationally and internationally recognized artists. MCA Museum provides support and advancement to artists through solo, group and juried exhibitions. MCA Museum's free admission and strong engagement programs provide visitors with free school and public tours, a robust docent program and free artist talks.

### **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](https://mesaartscenter.com).