



MESA ARTS CENTER



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum Summer 2023 Exhibitions Opening Reception Friday, May 12 | 7–10 p.m.



Image credit: Abby Messmer, “Navigating the Contours of Cool and Warm,” 2020, gouache and acrylic on canvas, 48 x 64 inches. Additional high-res images [here](#).

Mesa, AZ – **Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum** celebrates the opening of five new exhibitions featuring artists **Bill Dambrova**, **Abbey Messmer**, **Colleen Quigley**, and **Bobby Zokaites** and “**Visual Syntax**,” a national juried exhibition of abstract art. The free opening reception includes musical entertainment by Walt Richardson and Friends, light refreshments and a cash bar on **Friday, May 12, 2023, from 7–10 p.m.**

“Poke a Hole in the World”

Bill Dambrova

March 31–Aug. 6, 2023

Through vibrant colors and layered imagery, Phoenix artist Bill Dambrova merges fragments of our material world with surreal elements. His paintings defy traditional labels and provide portals to alternate realities. In this latest body of work, Dambrova explores his ongoing musings on consciousness, archetypal imagery, totemic powers, global art history and theories of emergence. Bill Dambrova is a 2021 proposal winner.

“Shifting Perspectives”

Abbey Messmer

April 14–Aug. 6, 2023

Using water as a metaphor for life’s inevitable state of flux, Phoenix creative Abbey Messmer explores alternate perspectives through the lens of liquid distortion. This exhibition features acrylic paintings derived from photographs taken at the bottom of a pool. The obscured surrounding landscape, including expansive skies, curvaceous horizons, corrupted human forms and emblematic props like ladders and umbrellas, encapsulate personal perception and how life experiences, genetic code and outside forces have an influence on our individual journeys.

“The Peculiar Seduction of Scattering Light”

Colleen Quigley

April 21–Aug. 6, 2023

Colleen Quigley, a Japanese American artist based in Tucson, is inspired by the beauty and wonder of the natural world. Through repeated geometric shapes, color and patterns, she creates spatial compositions that capture and reflect subtle shifts and mutations that encompass a variety of viewable angles/perspectives. This exhibition highlights Quigley’s most recent series, which explores the relationship between machine made/digital technology and handmade/analog; the sensorial power of materials; and the resulting interactive and imaginative experience. Colleen Quigley is a 2021 proposal winner.

“The Spindle, the Shuttle and the Needle”

Bobby Zokaites

May 12–Aug. 6, 2023

Tempe-based sculptor Bobby Zokaites is renowned for his large, outdoor and often, interactive artworks. Utilizing fabrication and assembly methods inspired by the industrial process, Zokaites creates his colorful structures from steel and paracord. In this installation, Zokaites harkens back to the childhood notion of play, evoking a sense of joy, wonder and catharsis. Bobby Zokaites is a 2021 proposal winner.

“Visual Syntax”

Contemporary Abstract Art

May 12–Aug. 6, 2023

This national juried exhibition celebrates the subjective visual language of abstract art. Through line, color, shape and form, the selected artists convey nonrepresentational, expressive or distorted representations of our physical world. From paintings on canvas to wood sculptures, this exhibition features 38 artworks by 15 local and national artists working in a wide range of mediums. Guest Juror for the “Visual Syntax” exhibition was

Ken Harman Hashimoto, who is a curator, gallerist, arts writer and the owner of Spoke Art (San Francisco) and Hashimoto Contemporary (New York).

Museum hours:

Mon: CLOSED

Tue–Sat: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Sun: Noon–5 p.m.

For more information, visit mesaartscenter.com/mcam or call 480-644-6560.

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

About Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum

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 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. Mesa Arts Center’s mission is to inspire people through engaging arts experiences that are diverse, accessible and relevant. For more information, visit mesaartscenter.com.

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