



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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Contact: Amanda Urrea  
O 480-644-6620 C 602-741-0219  
[amanda.urrea@mesaartscenter.com](mailto:amanda.urrea@mesaartscenter.com)

## **The Store at Mesa Arts Center Opening Friday, Sept. 8**



Additional high-res images [here](#).

Mesa, AZ – Mesa Arts Center is excited to announce the opening of **The Store on Friday, Sept. 8, from 10 a.m.–10 p.m.** The opening features a captivating blend of artistry and craftsmanship with live artist demonstrations, offering a unique opportunity to delve into the creative process.

The Store is an artists' cooperative gallery where you can find one-of-a-kind art and unique gifts created by a juried group of over 30 Arizona artists. Items in The Store include a variety of mediums, such as painting, wood, metal, jewelry, glass, fiber, ceramics, photography, mixed media and more. All visitors are sure to find something that fits their taste and budget.

The Store is proud to introduce two new artists, fiber artist Laurie Fagen of Fagen Designs and watercolor/mixed media artist Tish Bengston, who exemplify the richness of The Store's offerings. Fagen's exquisite wall art quilts are a fusion of texture and color that invites you into her artistic world. Bengston is captivating patrons with her watercolor paintings and willingness to share the magic behind her craft as one of the artists hosting live demonstrations. Additionally, in September, The Store celebrates the Sonoran Desert with a special "Desert Collection," which you can find just inside the entrance. Stay on the lookout for additional themed exhibitions scheduled throughout the year.

**Artist demonstration schedule for Sept. 8:**

10 a.m.–2 p.m. Memory Bradley, sculpture and fiber  
2 p.m.–6 p.m. Debra McKee, jewelry and painting  
2 p.m.–6 p.m. John Finkey, jewelry and photography  
6 p.m.–10 p.m. Dale Kesel, photography  
6 p.m.–10 p.m. Andy Pulsipher, wood

**The Store artists:**

**Memory Bradley**, sculpture and fiber; **Tish Bengston**, watercolor; **Susan Canasi**, metal; **Jennifer Dally**, glass and jewelry; **Nancy Dorobiala**, glass; **Laurie Fagen**, fiber wall quilts; **John Finkey**, jewelry and photography; **Colleen Gripentrog**, ceramics; **Lisa Harnish**, ceramics; **Veralyn Johnson**, painting and sculpture; **Allison Kantor**, painting and sculpture; **Francine Kavanaugh**, metal; **Dale Kesel**, photography; **Susan Klecka**, painting; **Larron Lerdall**, ceramics and fiber; **Larry Lininger**, stained glass; **Sue Lowry**, sculpture; **Debra McKee**, jewelry and painting; **Vicki McKenna**, gourds; **Merritt Menefee-Johnson**, glass; **Sharie Monsam**, baskets; **Margot Myers**, jewelry; **Darshana Patel**, ceramics and jewelry; **Nancy Pilgrim**, jewelry; **Andy Pulsipher**, wood; **Lanni Sidoti**, jewelry; **Genie Swanstrom**, ceramics; **David Vogt**, glass; **Mei Wu**, ceramics; and **Marcia Wenbert**, fiber.

The Store's opening is in conjunction with Mesa Arts Center's **Season Kickoff Festival: We Create the Future**, which is a free all-ages event on **Friday, Sept. 8 from 6–10 p.m.** The festival features live music, tasty food, interactive activities and more. Don't miss this extraordinary celebration of arts and creativity.

The Store is part of the Mesa Arts Center Foundation, and no sales tax is charged on purchases. A portion of every sale supports engagement programs of the Mesa Arts Center Foundation, including free art classes for veterans and children.

**The Store hours:**

Tuesdays and Wednesdays 12 p.m.–5 p.m.  
Thursdays and Fridays 10 a.m.–7:30 p.m.  
Saturdays 10 a.m.–7:30 p.m.  
Sundays 12 p.m.–5 p.m.  
Closed on Mondays, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

For more information, visit [mesaartscenter.com/thestore](http://mesaartscenter.com/thestore) or call 480-644-6515.

The Store at Mesa Arts Center is located at 1 East Main Street in downtown Mesa, AZ.

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

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