

20
YEARS



MESA ARTS CENTER



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Mesa Arts Center's MABEL Artist Residency Returns with Interactive, Community-Driven Art Experiences



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

Mesa, AZ – Mesa Arts Center is thrilled to launch the latest season of the **Mobile Art-Based Engagement Lab (MABEL) Artist Residency**, featuring an innovative lineup of artists: **Jo Ho, Molly Schenck, Ryan Greene** and **Sketch Club Café**. This season's programming brings a dynamic mix of interactive installations, movement-based experiences, community-focused ceramics and creative social gatherings.

MABEL is an adaptable, 12-foot modular trailer that takes community engagement on the road as a flexible creative space and pop-up arts center. Free and accessible hands-on artistic experiences with MABEL create connections on the spot, prompt discussion, catalyze change and spark creativity. MABEL focuses on underserved

neighborhoods, meeting residents where they are, and is available by request for community events, parks, schools, farmers markets and more.

“Creativity isn’t just for a select few,” said Danica Marlin, MABEL program manager. “By making the arts more accessible and sparking unique interactions with our community and working artists, we hope residents recognize creativity isn’t out of reach — it’s something everyone can nurture and find connection in.”

About our artists:

Jo Ho

Jo Ho is an Arizona-based artist who creates with a variety of media. She explores interactive art and paints stories with worn denim, adoring both the fabric’s texture and the owners’ stories. Jo also adds mixed media elements to spice up her work. Her experience of growing up in Hong Kong and living in the U.S. continues to be a wellspring of creative exposure, as she finds inspiration in the rhythms of different languages, the movements of cities and natures and the diversity of thought. With a background in the Hong Kong movie industry, Jo also enjoys weaving storytelling into her artwork and inviting viewers into her narratives.

Activity: How Are You Today?

A reflective and interactive installation inviting participants to pause, express their emotions through color, and contribute to a collective artwork. Participants select a vibrant denim feather representing their mood and add it to the Birdie sculpture. This sustainable, mixed-media installation celebrates personal expression and community connection. Attendees can also take home a keychain kit made from repurposed denim.

Molly Schenck

Molly Schenck is a multidisciplinary artist and somatic practitioner whose body of work focuses on human movement and what interrupts the full expression of it. Embedded in the flooring are sounds and images that participants can control using their movement. Step on to the mat to discover each of them and play with how the sounds and images can be controlled.

Activity: Embodied Mark Making

Participants step onto an interactive mat embedded with sounds and images, which respond to their movements. This experience offers a chance to engage with whole-body creativity through a fusion of movement, technology and visual art.

Ryan Greene

Ryan Greene is a ceramic artist currently pursuing his MFA at Arizona State University. He previously worked as a production pottery apprentice in Helena, MT and as a Ceramic Technician at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. He earned his BFA in Ceramics from the University of North Florida. Ryan’s work is influenced by the way utilitarian pottery connects food and people, and he creates sculptural works and functional pottery for people to interact with and eat out of. His installations encourage these interactions and create a space of wonder for people to experience.

Activity: Community Soup Bowls

Participants will decorate ceramic bowls inspired by their personal connection to food. These bowls will later be used at a community soup gathering, emphasizing shared

experiences and cultural influences on food traditions. Through this project, participants contribute to a larger conversation about food, community and artistic expression.

Sketch Club Café

Sketch Club Café is a 501(c)3 nonprofit co-founded by Bryanna Smith and Kourtney Hamidi, created for the local arts community. SCC is an organization providing inclusive space for artists to express themselves and find community, all while supporting local. SCC specializes in the curation of creative social gatherings and workshops hosted in collaboration with local coffee shops and other small businesses. Events take place on weekends and can be found popping up all around the Valley every month.

Activities:

- **Blob Art:** A playful introduction to abstract art, where participants transform simple shapes into imaginative compositions using guided techniques.
- **A Portrait of Mesa:** A self-portrait workshop inspired by renowned Arizona artists, encouraging personal expression and stylistic exploration.
- **Pop Art with Acrylic Markers:** A vibrant pop art session inspired by Arizona's Five C's — copper, cattle, cotton, citrus and climate — allowing participants to experiment with bold colors and strong outlines.

Join Us!

The MABEL Artist Residency offers an exciting season of interactive and socially engaged art experiences that invite the community to participate, create and connect.

Upcoming events featuring our artists in residence:

Celebrate Mesa

MABEL ft. Sketch Club Café

Saturday, April 12 | 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Pioneer Park

Sunset Market

MABEL ft. Sketch Club Café

Thursday, April 17 | 5–8 p.m.

1 E Macdonald

For more information and upcoming events, visit mesaartscenter.com/mabel.

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 create meaningful arts experiences in Mesa for everyone. For more information, visit mesaartscenter.com.

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