



MESA ARTS CENTER



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum's Fall 2022 Exhibitions Featuring Ron English's Living in Delusionville



Opening Reception Friday, September 9 | 6-10 p.m.

Mesa, AZ – **Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum** will celebrate the opening of five new exhibitions with a free reception, Ron English pop-up store, musical entertainment by DJ Pickster and a cash bar on **Friday, September 9, 2022, from 6 – 10 p.m.**

Headlining MCA Museum's Fall season is cultural provocateur Ron English, who became notorious for his illegal billboards in the 1980s and was later known for his visual satires of mainstream icons, which appeared in films like Morgan Spurlock's documentary *Super Size Me*. Other highlights included a collective exhibition of 150 sketchbooks by emerging and established artists from across the globe in the *Moleskine Project*, the street art of local creatives Such and Champ Styles, as well as the childlike wonder of Giorgiko's dreamscapes and Reen Bareera's toy-inspired sculptures.

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 develop 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, 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.

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, 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.