



For immediate release
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Mesa Contemporary Arts Fall Season presents **Rock & Roll and Motorcycle Inspired Art**

(Mesa, Ariz.) – Mesa Contemporary Arts (MCA) has earned a national reputation for exhibiting cutting edge contemporary artwork and has previously explored subcultures and alternative lifestyles that have grown to become popular in mainstream society, as in the immensely successful 2008 exhibitions *Low & Slow: The “Art” of the Lowrider* and *Beneath the Skin: Artwork Inspired by Tattoos*. For the Mesa Art Center’s Season Kickoff, MCA is focusing on two themes that capture the essence of American creativity and ingenuity along with the rebellious spirit and individualism that has helped shape our country—Rock Music and Motorcycles.

While the Mesa Arts Center season opening event is now an established tradition, Mesa Arts Center will kick off its 2011 fall season with a full weekend festival that will begin with MCA’s opening reception on Friday, September 9. The festival will open that night at 6pm with an outdoor display of motorcycles and cars that take over the seven-acre campus grounds, accompanied by live music, artist demos, food booths and a beer garden. The Friday evening events coincide with 2nd Friday Night Out in Downtown Mesa, featuring artists, music and free activities.

GUITARS & HANDLEBARS SEASON KICK-OFF FESTIVAL: Sept 9-11

Friday, Sept 9th, 2011: 6pm-10pm

Saturday, Sept 10th, 2011: 10am-10pm

Sunday, Sept 11th, 2011: 10am-4pm

The public is invited to attend *Guitars & Handlebars*, a blowout event featuring rock music, motorcycles, great art and showcasing the upcoming season at the Mesa Arts Center theaters and studios. The event is free of charge and festival goers can visit the galleries, watch demos in the Art Studios, see live music and theater performances, tour MAC’s four theaters, and explore a motorcycle and car show in which many of the top customized vehicles in the Valley will be exhibited. Saturday evening will feature World Classic Rockers live in concert, an all-star group that brings together former band members from Santana, Journey, Steppenwolf, Toto, Lynyrd Skynyrd and Boston.

MESA CONTEMPORARY ARTS OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, September 9, 2011: 7pm-10pm

Free and open to the public

Premiering Exhibitions:

***Radical Rides: The "Art" of Motorcycles* – Wilson and Ruby Dobson Main Gallery**

***Six-String Masterpieces* – South Gallery**

***Easy Ridin' & Hard Rockin' AZ Style* – North Gallery**

***Lego Experience* – Dr. Ruth Tan Lim Project Room**

***Altered States: Dreams, Nightmares and Fantasies* – SRP Permanent Collection Gallery**

ABOUT FEATURED EXHIBITIONS:

Six-String Masterpieces

September 9 – December 4, 2011

Six-String Masterpieces is a charitable art exhibition featuring an amazing collection of Dean Electric Guitars that have been hand-painted, illustrated and sculpted by leading musicians, tattooists and contemporary visual artists. Originally introduced in 2006, Mesa Contemporary Arts has partnered with Dean Guitars to revive this very special exhibition, unveiling newly customized guitars alongside selected works from the original show. Artists include music legends Ozzy Osbourne, Bret Michaels, Les Claypool of Primus, Scott Ian of Anthrax, Kerry King of Slayer, Chester Bennington of Linkin Park, Jon Davis and Munky (KORN), Billy Corgan of Smashing Pumpkins; LA contemporary art star Mark Dean Veca; MTV Award winning video director Dean Karr; NASCAR driver Kevin Harvick; as well as guitars painted by visual artists Colin Christian, Ron English, Erik Foss, Chris Mars; tattoo artist Aaron Cain; Arizona artists Matt Smith, Such Styles and Sage.



Dean ML guitar sculpted by **Aaron Cain**.

With over \$250,000 raised thus far, *Six-String Masterpieces* continues to evolve as an ongoing charitable exhibition that serves to raise awareness and support for music education and carries a message of anti-violence with its dedication to one of rock music's greatest and most beloved guitar players, Dimebag Darrell Abbott. All proceeds from *Six-String Masterpieces* benefit LITTLE KIDS ROCK, one of America's top music education charities.

Curated by Curse Mackey. Sponsored by Dean Guitars.

Radical Rides: The “Art” of Motorcycles

September 9, 2011 – January 9, 2012

Ever since Peter Fonda and Dennis Hopper set on their epic journey in the 1969 classic film *Easy Rider*, America’s fascination with the motorcycle has never been the same. Today, this symbol of rebellion and the counterculture has become an accepted, artistic movement, embraced by art galleries and museums around the world. The motorcycle industry itself has developed into a \$21 billion dollar a year business in the U.S. with its own stars and celebrities, whose creativity and innovations have elevated this mode of transportation into an art form. Mesa Contemporary Arts is pleased to showcase this ingenuity in *Radical Rides: The “Art” of Motorcycles* with motorcycles by prominent designers Ron Finch, Laura Klock, Paul Yaffe as well as an art motorcycle by visual artist Lee Stoetzel. Also on display are several customized motorcycle tank “canvases” that have been transformed into works of art by leading motorcycle painters and contemporary artists.



Laura Klock’s customize chopper Memphis, one of several motorcycles that will be on display.

Easy Ridin’ & Hard Rockin’ AZ Style

September 9 – December 18, 2011

From paintings on canvas as well as discarded guitar bodies to sculptures made from motorcycle parts, this exhibition showcases local talent with artwork inspired by the Rock & Roll and Motorcycle theme.



El Moises, *Hamster Por Vida*, painting, Collection of Paul Yaffe.

Lego Experience

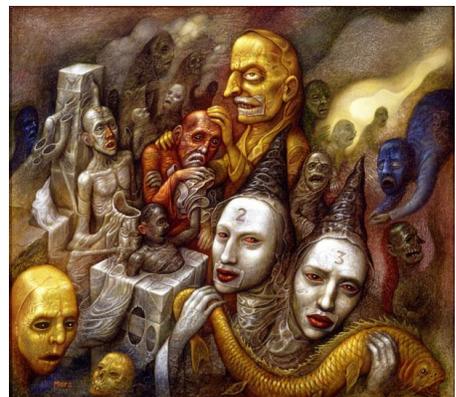
September 9, 2011 – January 9, 2012

Fun for all ages, this exhibition features the work of certified Lego artist Nathan Sawaya. The centerpiece of the show is a full-scale motorcycle made entirely from Legos.

Altered States: Dreams, Nightmares and Fantasies

September 9 – September 30, 2011

Showcasing some of the work in Mesa Contemporary Arts’ permanent collection, this exhibition focuses on imagery that captures the imagination and reveals the unusual worlds we encounter in the far recesses of our minds.



Chris Mars, *Receiving Indoctrination Immunity*, 2007
Oil on panel, 22 x 25 inches. Gift of the artist, 2010.

*Editor's Note: Images are available for download via Mesa Arts Center's online Media Photo Gallery at www.mesaartscenter.com/mediaCenter.aspx, the password is macmedia (all lower case).

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ABOUT MESA CONTEMPORARY ARTS

Mesa Contemporary Arts is an extraordinary visual art exhibition space at Mesa Arts Center showcasing contemporary art from today's emerging and internationally recognized artists in five stunning galleries. Groundbreaking and provocative, the exhibits represent the finest in contemporary art. Hours: Tue, Wed., Fri., and Sat. 10am-5pm | Thu 10am-8pm | Sun 12pm-5pm | Closed Monday
Admission is FREE.

ABOUT MESA ARTS CENTER

Mesa Arts Center has been named "Arts Organization of the Year" for 2010 by The Arts & Business Council of Greater Phoenix and received numerous other awards and accolades for its programs and outstanding new facilities. Arizona's largest arts campus 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. The Mesa Arts Center mission is to inspire people through impacting and engaging experiences that are diverse, accessible, and relevant; and that enhance the quality of life and vitality of the region. For more information, visit www.mesaartscenter.com. One East Main Street | Mesa | 480-644-6500

Take a free guided tour of the Mesa Arts Center campus including all theaters, art studios, Mesa Contemporary Arts, and the shadow walk. Tours are every Wednesday at noon and require a reservation. For more information or to book your tour call 480-644-6626.