

# But it's a Dry Heat

SEPT. 9, 2007 - JAN. 11, 2008

The exhibition, inspired by the Valley's informal motto, "But It's a Dry Heat," celebrates the local environment - whether it is the weather, the desert, the architecture and/or the community.

Dry heat refers to the weather, as well as to the state of mind of the desert dwellers. Half of the year, this metropolis enjoys a mild climate that promotes year-round sports and outdoor entertainment, attracting tourists, new residents and "winter visitors" from around the country. The other half of the year, the summer months, are hot, just plain hot. So hot that a great number of residents flee in fear.

But for many residents, the 115-plus degree temperatures aren't that big of a deal. We are proud of their endurance. We crank up the air-conditioning, enjoy cheap golf and soak in our enormous swimming pools. We poke fun at how miserably humid it must be in other states. But now and again, someone will whine about the heat - usually a newbie resident - and then it just comes out of our mouths as if in slow motion: "but it's a dry heat."

## Featured artists:

**Dan Collins, Tempe**

**Mark Klett, Tempe**

**Muriel Magenta, Tempe**

**Bob Martin, Scottsdale**

**Joe Ray, Tempe**

**Mary Shindell, Phoenix**

**Randy Slack, Phoenix**

**Filippo Tagliati, Tempe**

**Joan Waters, Phoenix**

THE GALLERY at Tempe Center for the Arts

be part of the scene



# But it's a Dry Heat

FEATURED ARTIST - RANDY SLACK, PHOENIX



Randy Slack's studio, *Legend City*, in downtown Phoenix is an artist's dream space. "Cool" artists hang around the spacious, old building and marvel at its polished concrete floors and exposed red brick walls. It is as though they have been transported from downtown Phoenix into an artist's loft in SoHo. It is no wonder that Slack and the *Legend City* co-founders use the space for events like their infamous Chaos Theory art show, chamber music performances and commercial photo shoots.

Slack looks more like a happy-go-lucky surfer with his T-shirt and blond locks than an "angst-ridden" artist dressed in black and hiding out from the sun and the world. But like many artists in the "Dry Heat" exhibition, he just so happens to be a down-to-earth family guy, entrepreneur, artist and advocate. He would most likely describe himself and his life as "lucky." As a self-taught artist, he doesn't seem to be too concerned with the "rules" of painting. But that hasn't really stopped him from making work that could be described as modern-day Pop Art. He likes to play with form, media and theme. He references anything from the Simpson's and Elvis to the Last Supper and Mona Lisa. His large scale paintings are approachable; the everyday person can relate to them through humor and/or personal memory and experience.

For the "Dry Heat" exhibition Slack dares the outdoors and the Valley's 100-plus degree temperatures. In fact, he says that his new temporary sculpture in the TCA's Sculpture Garden will embrace the changes in weather from hot to cold. He has chosen to create a 16-foot long metal box to be his canvas. His painting, which provides a glimpse of his personal desert oasis - his own backyard - will be a climactic test of sorts. It may endure and/or evolve during the duration of the four month exhibition. For the Slack, the unknown is part of the fun of making art.

"I was born in phoenix in 1971 and I have never left. The heat is a big part of my lifestyle. I embrace, cherish and revel in it. My back yard, in which my family and I spend a lot of time, screams of the passion I have for the heat and what is necessary to withstand an Arizona summer. I have built my own piece of paradise in the desert. I get lost among the tropical plants, tiki torches and loud waterfalls. Only after the start of my painting 'BE ANY HOME RD (my back yard)' did I remember that I indeed live in the middle of a booming desert city complete with large signs, freeways and power lines. My piece was intentionally painted on metal to absorb the suns rays as an experiment to see how it will respond to the dry heat. I intend to share a small view of my world that I see as the norm, but still realize a desert lifestyle is unique."

[www.randyslack.com/randyslack.com/legend\\_city.html](http://www.randyslack.com/randyslack.com/legend_city.html)

THE GALLERY at Tempe Center for the Arts

be part of the scene



# But it's a Dry Heat

FEATURED ARTIST - MARK KLETT, TEMPE



Mark Klett describes his photographs as an “intersection of cultures, landscapes and time.” He was a geologist before he became a photographer which probably explains his continual fascination with the natural and man-made evolution of the landscape. He is an artist of many hats: a historian, surveyor and sociologist of sorts - studying, documenting and re-photographing places from the past. One might call the images comparisons of past and present, but really, each one of Klett’s works are a cohesive narrative about a particular place.

For the past 25 years, he has been living, working and teaching in Arizona. Klett has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Buhl Foundation, and the Japan/United States Friendship Commission. His work has been exhibited and collected both nationally and internationally at prestigious venues such as the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American Art, Chicago Art Institute, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth, the Whitney Museum in New York and Victoria Albert Museum in London. He is the author of 12 books including Yosemite in Time with Rebecca Solnit and Byron Wolfe, Third Views, Second Sights and After the Ruins. Klett was honored in 2001 for his teaching accomplishments at Arizona State University’s School of Art by being selected as Regent’s Professor.

<http://thirdview.org/3v/home/index.html>

THE GALLERY at Tempe Center for the Arts

be part of the scene



GALLERY

# But it's a Dry Heat

FEATURED ARTIST - JOAN WATERS, PHOENIX



For many artists, art making is a form of creation and the work embodies an identity or purpose. For Joan Waters, molding, welding and cutting flat sheets of cold, industrial steel is a process of transformation, for the work and for herself. At age 34, breast cancer surgery and six months of chemotherapy changed her life and work. It was a period of introspection and a re-examination of priorities. She made a commitment to herself and to her art to live, create and share. A welding class at Mesa Community College intro-

duced her to the wonders of metal. By concentrating her will and energy into the materials, Waters says, “The work attains a visceral power and vibration of its own.” Over the past five years, she has lived up to her commitment with a thriving graphic design company, a new studio in Tempe, numerous public and private commissions and eight solo and more than 30 group exhibitions.

Waters was born in England, but grew up on the east coast of the United States. In her childhood she traveled to the Caribbean many times with her family. She developed an interest in foreign cultures and a love for saturated tropical colors and organic forms. Her paintings and metal sculptures reference nature without directly depicting natural scenes. The abstracted shapes and textures in her metal sculptures reveal numerous influences, including African scarification, layers of fauna and the interplay of light and color.

Working in metal for Waters is like drawing in three dimensions. In her hands, the metal becomes warm, moving and organic forms with life. The raw material is plasma cut, hammered and shaped, then welded with textures and patterns. After grinding and polishing, she layers colored patinas to create rich surfaces, blurring the lines between painting and sculpture. Her new suspended sculpture in the “Dry Heat” exhibition, worked by heat processes will shift and move as the hand-worked surfaces catch and reflect the light. The cut openings and shadows will reveal the mysterious inner workings behind the surface.

“Each sculpture embodies a powerful physical presence and spirit which evolves over time from the process of manual labor and working the metal intuitively,” Waters said. “For me, part of the appeal of the process is the extreme amount of deconstruction—cutting up and taking apart—that is necessary before the work can be re-ordered as a unified organic presence.”

[www.joanwaters.com/](http://www.joanwaters.com/)

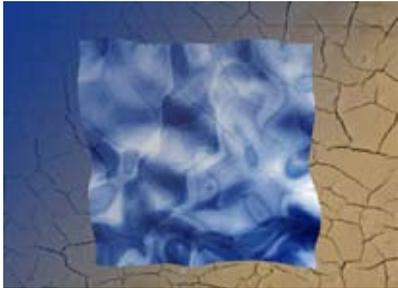
THE GALLERY at Tempe Center for the Arts

be part of the scene



# But it's a Dry Heat

FEATURED ARTIST - DAN COLLINS, TEMPE



Land, water and energy have been common themes in the work of Dan Collins. When the “Dry Heat” theme was conceived, he became an obvious choice to exhibit in the show. As a long-time Tempe resident and educator, his approach to art is a combination of academic research and visual experience. It's not uncommon to hear people saying, “Cool,” when they see his work.

Collins started out as a sculpture, but in recent years has dedicated his energy to new media. So much so, that he and his students have become the new technology gurus in the local art scene. But Collin's video and computer visualizations aren't too far of a departure from sculpture. His work is about seeing something and being there in the moment - whether looking at a mock flood scene of the Valley or a three-dimensional textured map of the Grand Canyon. His work “Mirage” in the “Dry Heat” exhibition will be an interactive installation that encourages visitors to reflect on their relationship to water in the desert, driving home the point about the local desert environment, its resources and its impermanence.

Collins received a bachelor of art's degree from the University of California (Davis), a master of art's degree from Stanford and a master of fine art's degree from the University of California (Los Angeles). He is Professor of Intermedia Studies at Arizona State University, Co-Director of the Deep Creek summer art program and Co-Director of the PRISM Lab, an ASU Partnership for Research in Spatial Modeling. The PRISM Lab where he spends much of his time, combines research efforts from various disciplines from ASU including Industrial Technology, Archaeology, Anthropology, Biomechanical Engineering, Bioscience, Computer Science, Architecture, Industrial Design and Sculpture.

The partnership focuses efforts on ways new technologies can problem solve three-dimensional objects in a computer and then visualize them in cyberspace and then in reality.

In his “spare time” he is a father, artist, advocate and doctoral candidate at ASU in educational technology.

[www.asu.edu/cfa/art/people/faculty/collins/](http://www.asu.edu/cfa/art/people/faculty/collins/)

THE GALLERY at Tempe Center for the Arts

be part of the scene



GALLERY

# But it's a Dry Heat

FEATURED ARTIST - BOB MARTIN, SCOTTSDALE

For the “Dry Heat” exhibition, Scottsdale artist Bob Martin concentrates on the human condition associated with living in a harsh desert climate. Martin features several paintings that depict the use, availability and need of the “99 cent water bottle.” The new series is a dialog that Martin has started with himself and friends about the positives and negatives of buying bottles of water. The topics are numerous including recycling issues, landfills, consumerism and more. Everyday, all over the Valley, people carry plastics bottle of water. Martin said of the exhibition’s title, “Dry Heat,” that it’s really not that dry in the desert because, “We consume and use so much water here.”

Much of this native New Yorker’s work is about the human condition. “I am attempting to capture in my paintings moments that don’t lend themselves easily to words. I am especially focused on the human face, attempting to bring to the foreground those moments in our expression that are most often overlooked and avoided,” Martin said.

Martin began his art studies as a teenager at the Art Students League of New York. It was there that he was exposed to diverse influences in art and life. He was surrounded by art, jazz, dance and basketball as a youngster and says nothing has changed in more than 50 years. He is a habitual inquirer, seeking new ways of knowing and seeing everyday. As an artist, he picks up on subtle and not so subtle connections between artists and the world. His own work has been inspired by a variety of artists such as Cezanne, Degas, Picasso, Jacob Lawrence and Modigliani; musicians, such as Ellington, Gershwin, Miles Davis, Prince and Beethoven and cultures such as Haiti, France, Germany, Russia and Britain. It is no surprise that he sees learning as an art form. He even has a website and blog dedicated to the dialog of art where he shares his own and other’s thoughts and works in an open format (Knowing - Art of Learning). He’s very much the “cool” poetic beatnik art professor.

Martin has shown his work in New York City, Phoenix and Scottsdale and is featured in prominent private collections in New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Scottsdale and Paris. He currently serves on the Board of Directors at the Scottsdale Artists’ School.

<http://website.informer.com/bobmartin-art.com>

THE GALLERY at Tempe Center for the Arts

be part of the scene



GALLERY

# But it's a Dry Heat

FEATURED ARTIST - JOE RAY, TEMPE

Chicano art in the Valley is almost synonymous with the name Joe Ray. The Phoenix artist has played an active role in the Valley's art scene since the early 80's and is primarily known for his colorful two-dimensional work. For "But it's a Dry Heat" Ray created installation pieces that combine his talents in painting along with the three-dimensional storytelling that sculpture offers. Like other work in the exhibition, Ray's festive work focuses on desert and environment and how it relates to the "heat" theme.

"I've seen mermaids in the desert before. Actually, I see them quite often," Ray said. "They usually do whatever their little hearts desire. I admire their choices as well as their candor. I've been on the receiving end of their jokes before when wondering why the desert is under the ocean and not below. That usually amuses them. I saw these lovely mermaids at a party in July. It was quite hot and dry outside but that didn't stop them from having a little fiesta on the back patio. Bottles of red, white and champagne were uncorked as the laughter and the singing flowed."

Ray's work is all about identity, spirituality and communication. In his work he most often uses recognizable imagery such as roosters, angels, mermaids, Mexican wrestlers and hearts mixed with spontaneous splashes of bright colors to tell stories about love, life and art. His work can



*La Shy One* by Joe Ray

be identified as "southwest" without any reference to the kitsch of southwest commercialism. His work is southwest because it is reflective of his life growing up in Mexico and the United States and speaks about a contemporary Chicano perspective.

Ray is an active artist member of Xicanindio, a Chicano/Native American arts organization in Mesa, and the recently created

group, TOMA (Taller de Multicultural Artists), an artists' group that gathers for printmaking sessions and workshops. Recently, his work was selected as part of Nordstroms' "Amor Ahorra/ Love Today," a national exhibition. It was the second year that his work was selected. Ray also painted a guitar for "Guitar Mania 2," a benefit for Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Central Arizona, sponsored by Fender Guitar.

Ray was born in San Luis, R.C., Sonora, Mexico, and has lived in Arizona since age three. He grew up on the Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation near Parker and resided there until 1977. In 1983 he earned his bachelor's of fine arts degree in Graphic Design from Arizona State University. Since that time, he has remained in Phoenix where he is a principal and creative director with Estudio Ray, a strategic design and branding firm.

[www.joeray.com/](http://www.joeray.com/)

THE GALLERY at Tempe Center for the Arts

be part of the scene



GALLERY

# But it's a Dry Heat

FEATURED ARTIST - MARY SHINDELL, PHOENIX



Untitled by Mary Shindell

Phoenix Artist Mary Shindell is spending her hot summer months locked away in her home studio creating new work for the grand opening exhibition. Shindell, known for finely detailed prints and drawings of desert fauna and landscapes, is creating digitized drawing decals that

will look like sun-dried Saguaro fruit drawn on the gallery floor. Her work is so meticulous that it takes countless hours to create, but the end result is an illusion of natural texture and depth. The “wind-blown” pieces placement around the gallery will help to define movement around the exhibition for visitors while reminding them that even though the temperature inside TCA is cool, it is a blistering 110-plus degrees outside. Hey, at least “it’s a dry heat.”

Shindell earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in painting from Northern Arizona University and a master of fine arts degree in drawing from Arizona State University. She has taught drawing and printmaking at the university level and has exhibited in solo and group exhibitions in Arizona, California, Texas, New Mexico, Illinois, Hawaii, New York, New

Jersey, Montana and Kansas. Shindell’s work can be seen in permanent collections at the Glendale Public Library, Mesa Community College, The Print Club of Albany, Westin Kierland Resort Herberger Ballroom and Phoenix Municipal Court Print Collection. She recently completed a terrazzo floor commissioned by the city of Phoenix Department of Arts and Culture for its Westside Senior Center. She is also a member of 515 Gallery in Phoenix.

“For me, drawing is not about making a study or a preparation of anything beyond itself. I want the work to be complicated, manipulated and spontaneous,” she said.

“The subject of my work is the environment in which I live. I produce layered, linear works that relate to the desert. Sometimes I contrast flat areas of color with the unrelenting detail found in plants native to this area. The contrast of space and detail is what attracts me to the landscape format. The Sonoran Desert has defined me as an artist and as an individual. “

[www.maryshindell.com/clients/shindellm/nav/splash.shtml](http://www.maryshindell.com/clients/shindellm/nav/splash.shtml)

THE GALLERY at Tempe Center for the Arts

be part of the scene



# But it's a Dry Heat

FEATURED ARTIST - MURIAL MAGENTA, TEMPE



*Untitled by Muriel Magenta*

Muriel Magenta is a native of New York City but currently resides in Tempe and teaches new media concepts at the School of Art at Arizona State University. She is a new genre artist working a variety of media, including video, computer art, web technology, installation, multi-media performance and sculpture. Much of her work explores the interface between electronic media and the virtual experience for the gallery visitor or Internet surfer. Her video works have been exhibited nationally and internationally in Los Angeles, Washington

D.C., Germany, Hong Kong, Beijing, ASU Art Museum, Scottsdale Center for the Arts and more.

Her upbringing in New York had a huge influence on her art. Two of her award-winning video pieces are about the high-rise, fast-paced lifestyle that is the unique New York experience. Her screenings extend from New York's virtual subway in "Token City" to downtown Broadway in "Times Square." Both have been in video screenings in nearly 100 locations worldwide. Magenta is also an active and energetic artist and advocate of the women's movement. She was National president of the Women's Caucus for Art, an active member of the College Art Association's Committee on Women in the Arts and a participant and presenter at the United Nation's World Conferences on Women in Copenhagen, Nairobi and Beijing. In her most recent project, "Shelter Against Violence," she taught expressive skills and computer programs to shelter residents at the YWCA Haven House in Phoenix, and together they produced the documentary "28 Women: A Chance for Independence."

Magenta's "Dry Heat" video installation of an urban street mural called "Hot 'AZ' Hell" is reflective of the metropolitan experience in the Valley – a cross between the urban environment and desert landscape. Much like the artist herself, the work will be a vibrant, colorful, funky and contemporary. It will "express the overriding effect of the Arizona summer sun on urban and desert life." The video will "mimic the hard light of the sun that changes the color, texture and intensity of everything it illuminates," Magenta said.

[www.public.asu.edu/~muriel/ts/](http://www.public.asu.edu/~muriel/ts/)

THE GALLERY at Tempe Center for the Arts

be part of the scene



GALLERY

# But it's a Dry Heat

FEATURED ARTIST - FILIPPO TAGLIATI, TEMPE

Italian photographer and recent Arizona State University master of fine arts recipient Filippo Tagliati spent much of last year photographing the construction of the Tempe Center for the Arts in its numerous stages of completion. During repeated visits to the



construction site, Tagliati would shoot different areas of the building and compiled hundreds of images. The images were then organized and manipulated in photo collages that tell the story of the TCA.

“Through photography I want to represent an idea of space, engaging the viewer and myself in questions about percep-

tion and spatial experience. I am interested in the relationship that photography holds with public space, specifically in analyzing the components that contribute to the perception of color, light, dimension and the natural/cultural environment. Translating a physical view and multi-faceted experience into images is my way of raising questions and challenging my thoughts about the photographic



*Tagliati at the TCA Construction site.*



medium. I find that the urban landscape is a perfect frame for my work, a place where my need to understand and to represent space merges.”



[www.filippotagliati.com/home.html](http://www.filippotagliati.com/home.html)

THE GALLERY at Tempe Center for the Arts

be part of the scene



GALLERY