Birds of a feather

June 19-Sept. 20, 2015

This summer exhibition celebrates the birds that make Arizona home or a migration stop to some exotic location. Featured artists come from around Arizona and the United States and work with a variety of media ranging from nature photography to abstract sculpture. Visitors will also enjoy displays and interactive programs from exhibition collaborators including ASU's Art Museum and School of Life Sciences.

Thank you for your support:

ASU Art Museum, ASU School of Life Sciences, ASU Natural History Collections, ASU Ask a Biologist, Liberty Wildlife, Maricopa Audubon Society, Tempe Union High School District, New School for the Arts and Academics, Rover Elementary School and St. Thomas School in WA.

Local Artists:

Jack DeLap
Vern E. Fetz
Phil Lichtenhan
Anne Peyton
Beth Shook
Jake Early
Edward Kennefick
Farraday Newsome
Barbara Rudolph
Nathaniel Smalley

With Artists:

Walter E. Bohl
Kojo Griffin
Paul Pletka
Talmond Brown
Ikki Matsumoto
Wanxin Zhang

TCA GALLERY

Tempe Center for the Arts

ASU Arizona State University
Liberty Wildlife
Maricopa Audubon Society

Jack DeLap, Seattle, WA

DeLap was born and raised in Corona del Mar, CA. His interest in drawing birds and wildlife began at an early age. He spent much of his free time birding the local grasslands, marshes and chaparral. He was introduced to birding by his mother and was later mentored by a teacher who was a former National Park Ranger. His interest in art was fostered by his father who was an artist and retired professor of art and architecture. Into adulthood, DeLap continued to study art at Pitzer College in Claremont, CA and Parsons School of Design in New York City, and later studied scientific illustration at the University of Washington in Seattle.

"*I produce images in various media including graphite, pen, ink, acrylic and oils. But the current work in its final form was created freehand using a digital tablet and stylus (Wacom Cintiq 13" that attaches to my laptop and the Sketchbook Pro 6, by Autodesk software). My process involves field sketches, museum specimens and photographs to create an original composition that aims to capture aspects of the species' natural history and physical form. 'Welcome to Subirdia' author Dr. John Marzluff and I collaborated on the conceptualization and narrative sequence of images. My primary aim for these illustrations was to utilize my passion for drawing in direct service of natural science education.*"

www.jackdelap.wordpress.com

Jake Early, Tempe

Early is originally from Chico, CA. He studied art at the School of Fine Arts in Seville, Spain and graduated with a degree in graphic design from California State University in Chico. He has been a working artist, illustrator, graphic designer and printmaker for the past 22 years. Early moved to Tempe in 2007 and has been recently creating large scale public art pieces for cities including Scottsdale and Mesa and will soon be starting a 300 ft. mural in Tempe near Daley Park. Each of the serigraph prints in Early's installation at the Tempe Center for the Arts were created by hand on a printing press he designed and built himself. He and TCA staff spent two days installing the work.

"*A constant theme in my work is a strong sense of place, which resonates with my collectors. Over the years, I have created, developed and refined my techniques of design, illustration, screen-printing, stenciling, spray-painting and layering ink to work on a number of surfaces. I believe strongly in art and its ability to communicate ideas, transform public spaces and celebrate what is unique about local places and people. I hope to communicate what is familiar and unfamiliar about the places we live in and pass through every day and I want to display my images in a wide range of scale and in front of a large, diverse audience. My goal is to honor local community spaces, landmarks, native plant and animal life and community pastimes. As a Tempe-based artist and community member, the opportunity to create and display my work in the Tempe Center for the Arts is something I'm proud of.*"

www.jakeearlyart.com

Vern E. Fetz (1926-2004)

Fetz was born in Globe and later resided in Phoenix. He received a Master's degree from Arizona State College (now ASU). He spent much of his professional career designing and building local miniature golf courses. But a life long passion was wood carving. He was a self taught artist that took up whittling when he was young and liked carving airplanes from block of balsa wood. After retiring, Fetz enjoyed making wood sculptures and making the rounds at various arts festival selling his works. According to his wife, TCA docent Lenore Fetz, he was especially known for making angels, dragon and birds.

Edward Kennefick, Phoenix

Kennefick was born in Gloucester, MA but moved with his parents to Arizona in 1969. He showed an interest in art and drawing from a young age. He graduated from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in visual communications with an emphasis in illustration. He also earned a Master of Fine Arts in painting from Arizona State University. Kennefick's illustrations have appeared in several local publications including the *Phoenix New Times*, *Phoenix Magazine* and the cover of the 1993 *Phoenix Suns Fast-Break* magazine. His art has been exhibited at the Phoenix Art Museum and several Phoenix galleries such as Modified Arts, Monorchid and The Ice House. He has also appeared in *American Art Collector* magazine. He is currently represented by Wilde Meyer Gallery in Scottsdale.

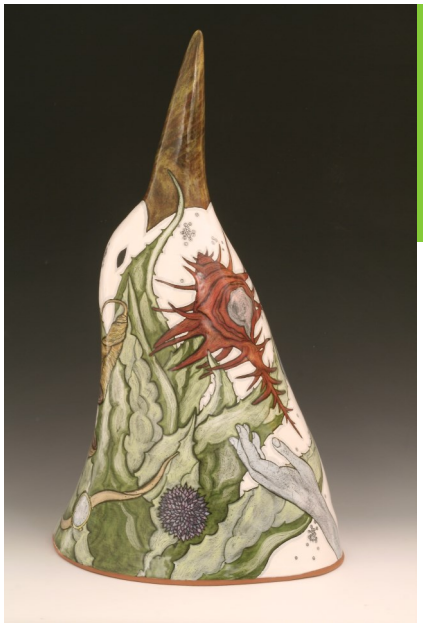
"*These pieces are a departure from my usual two-dimensional work as they incorporate ceramic elements. This involved sculpting the birds in three different sizes, then molding and pouring liquid clay called "slip" into the molds. The pieces are removed from the molds, dried and fired in a kiln. Unglazed they are then attached to the panels prior to painting. The works were part of my 2013 ASU Thesis show entitled 'Inheritance.' This small body of work explored themes of memory and nostalgia. Using more recent images and images taken from family photos I attempted to create a connection from past to present within the context of my family's story. The birds, in this case the sparrow, emerged as a symbol of vulnerability, memory and change, and were part of a larger personal narrative exploring intergenerational dynamics in the face of aging and mortality.*"

Phil Lichtenhan, Tucson

Lichtenhan was born in Tucson in 1952 and later attended Northern Arizona University where he studied printmaking. After receiving his Masters of Fine Arts from the University of Arizona he worked as a high school teacher for both public and private schools. He left teaching in 2001 to pursue his art career full time. Lichtenhans' work in this exhibition features metal bird nests, constructed from items such as old fencing, barbed wire, metal mesh and handmade ceramic eggs. His work has been included in numerous exhibitions throughout the years and is featured in collections including the Tucson Museum of Art, the University of Arizona Museum of Art and the Shemer Art Center and Museum in Phoenix.

"*As birds will use a variety of materials to construct their nests, I have collected man made discards to weave my nests. The steel wire and found objects have developed a beautiful surface of texture and color from the forces of nature. I find my materials everywhere including along the roadside and alleyways, inside the city or out in the desert. They are the discards of our world. The hand fashioned high-fired clay eggs are glazed in a variety of ways producing natural and unnatural finishes and colors. Some of the nests I create are like birds' nests in look and scale. Others are more improbable in size and material choice. I love the form, color and texture of my nests and I am particularly intrigued by the poetic contrast between the pristine eggs and the nests made of steel.*"

www.phillichtenhan.com



Farraday Newsome, Mesa

Newsome grew up in California. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California at Santa Cruz in 1976 and later earned a Master of Arts in ceramics from San Francisco State University in 1987. Newsome currently lives in Arizona with fellow potter and husband Jeff Reich. Together they run Indigo Street Pottery in Mesa and both teach pottery at the Mesa Arts Center. Newsome is represented by Cervini Haas Fine Art in Scottsdale and Katie Gingrass Gallery in Milwaukee, WI. Her work is also featured in many collections around the world including the Luce Center of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Long Beach Museum of Art, the Prague Museum of Decorative Arts in the Czech Republic, the Ohio Crafts Museum and the Arizona State University Art Museum.

"*I have worked within the format of the ceramic vessel for thirty years, usually finding inspiration from nature. I am interested in the combination of a painterly surface space with the actual space of three-dimensionality. I predominantly build and paint drifts of natural and/or artificial objects that have personal symbolic meaning. My imagery is built up by brushing multiple layers of colored glazes on top of a white or black glaze ground. I also scratch into the layers of glaze for further depth and visual texture. These large, glazed red terra cotta bird sculptures gaze upwards towards the sky in a passive and reflective state. Recurring ideas in the drift imagery speak to aspects of the unseen current of time: the eggs, watch, pelvis and shells represent biological time and fertility. The dice and cards suggest chance. The shark teeth, spiny agaves and poisonous datura seed represent danger.*
This work is part of an ongoing series that utilizes the painterly potential of surface space that exists on three-dimensional objects."

www.indigostreetpottery.com

Anne Peyton, Phoenix

For more than twenty years, Peyton was one of the most sought after motorsports artists. But later, her lifelong love of nature brought her back to the thing she enjoyed painting as a child while at her grandfather's home in Colorado, birds. Today, she and her husband spend countless hours viewing birds around Arizona and the Southwest. Peyton participates on an ongoing basis in several wildlife art exhibitions and competitions as well as dedicates several volunteer hours each month to Liberty Wildlife, a Scottsdale-based rehabilitation and education organization that treats injured animals. Her specialty is assisting hawks and owls to become accustomed to people for educational and group settings.

Peyton has two criteria for finishing a wildlife painting: one is that the final image shows respect for the subject and the second is that viewers can learn something about the subject.

"*I have always been fascinated by birds. As I small child, I spent countless hours drawing ducks swimming on the ponds close to my home in Fort Collins, CO. More recently, I have become interested in birds of prey as well. Many of my current subjects are either water birds or raptors, with a few paintings of small birds scattered in the mix. Observing birds and their habits is a way to discover more about their nature. Each of these actions means something for the bird and it is these actions and their meanings that I want to convey to the viewer. I enjoy the challenge of paintings birds in detail, and as such, many of my subjects are isolated from their habitats. While the locations of the birds are certainly important, my personal challenge comes from trying to not only capture the likeness of each animal but to try to bring life to each bird as well.*"

www.annepeytonart.com

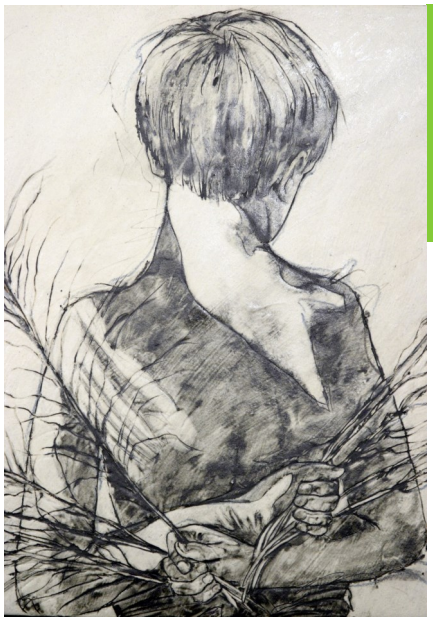
Barbara Rudolph, Phoenix

Rudolph earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in painting and printmaking from Arizona State University in 1990. She also studied painting in a realistic style at the Scottsdale Artists' School and abroad in San Miguel de Allende in Mexico.

She began her professional arts career in graphic design and later as a painter in the fine art publishing business. In the late 1990's she began working on painting her own work full time and focuses primarily on intimate portraits of birds in her compositions. She is currently a member of the International Guild of Realism and has been featured in magazines such as Southwest Art and American Art Collector. She has also been a finalist in the prestigious International Art Renewal Center Salon competition.

"*I realize how important 'Art' is in my life. I love to spend time in the studio creating paintings that will bring joy into people's lives. My inspiration for painting birds came from my late father who always loved birds. I enjoy telling a story with my oil paintings that capture a moment in time. The idea for 'At the Met' came to me while visiting the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. I painted the bluebird sitting on top of the marble capital as if he was lost in the Roman gallery of the museum…. My titles are important, and I am often told that my work is fun, stimulating and creative. When people look at one of my paintings they are often moved by the fine detail and the beauty in nature. They feel a sense of attachment to the piece because of the emotion it evokes. I desire to create something of beauty to uplift the human spirit.*"

www.BarbaraRudolphFineArt.com



Beth Shook, Gilbert

Shook considers herself a native of the southwest, having lived her most influential years in El Paso, TX. She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Texas at El Paso in 1985. It was there she discovered her love of clay and the drawn line. She struggled with choosing between the two media, but later decided to incorporate both into her work. She received a Master of Fine Arts degree from Arizona State University and began teaching ceramics at mesa Community College. She now lives and works in Gilbert with her family and a quirky border collie dog.

"There is always a story to tell. One might reason that there are two stories, considering the complementary sides to each tale. Indeed, one discovers those storied halves illuminate parallel narratives, alluding to ever more complex accounts. In my tale, inspiration comes from my relationships with people, objects and faith. Each encounter elicits a reaction to communicate to others. Because I know that my world view is not singular, my narrative becomes allegory and I invite others to join my story. Clay provides the most immediate way to tell my story visually as it responds to manipulation. I begin to focus on the surface of the clay and work in layers of slips and glaze, pushed and pulled onto the drawn, stamped or textured clay. The story begins to take shape, the drawing more a part of the clay surface, the clay more a part of the narrative. I include found objects and various other mediums to aid in the story telling process, furthering the overlap of color, texture and image."

www.bethshookart.com

Nathaniel Smalley, Phoenix

Though he calls the American Southwest his home, Smalley, a professional nature photographer, leads workshops, tours and expeditions to various international destinations. He is a passionate conservationist and has done extensive work with various conservation organizations, filling every role from a volunteer assisting injured animals to serving as a board member. He is also committed to maintaining high standards of ethics when it comes to nature photography, avoiding things that might harm his wildlife subjects or the environment. His associations include organizations such as National Geographic, National Wildlife Federation, National Audubon Society and Arizona Highways.

"*I spent most of my life on the Maine coast. There my love of birds took root.... My transition [to Phoenix] was a shock to my senses. As I adjusted to my new surroundings, I began to realize subtle things even within this vast city. A spunky Gamble's Quail on my backyard fence greeting the rising sun; a bright, red Cardinal, beckoning me to climb in pursuit of him to the top of South Mountain; or a Great Blue Heron spreading its giant wings over the still ponds at the Gilbert Riparian Preserve. The art work I'm displaying here in part chronicles the unlikely story of a bird loving youngster from Maine whose life led him to Arizona, and helped him realize his dream of becoming a professional nature photographer. These photos take the viewer on a visual odyssey across Arizona, highlighting the unique beauty hidden throughout this great state that only our feathered friends can show to us. It is my privilege and honor to share these images with you.*"

www.NathanielSmalleyPhotography.com