

# Eyes of the Beholder

April 10-Aug. 5, Tempe Public Library Connections Cafe

This exhibition brings together artists Bob Allen and Kyllan Maney for the first time. Both work with mixed media, repeating patterns, and re-purposed images from their past. Both build their individual paintings in layers, allowing for the images to be camouflaged and revealed at the same time. Although the artistic approach for each artist differs, they each create collaged works of art, providing new ways for their audiences to look at the world.



## Bob Allen, Phoenix

Originally from Louisville, KY, Allen studied art at Bellarmine-Ursuline College. After a stint in the Navy, he finished his studies at the University of Kentucky in Lexington under the G.I. Bill. Over the years, Allen's career worked as an arts administrator led him to be a festival producer, theater manager, actor and convention center director. All the while, Allen continued to pursue a parallel path as a visual artist. Retiring in 2012, he now paints full time in his studio in Phoenix.

Of his work in this exhibition, Allen says, *"I have always kept a log of stories, observations and ideas for development, and since retiring, I now have much more quality time to explore these thoughts. Transitioning from an externally demanding work world to an internally driven life-in-retirement continues to be challenging and surprising. In the daily reinvention of myself, I now freely explore the ideas and memories in my log in pursuit of inspiration for new paintings."*

Allen says of the comparison of his work with Maney's, *"Kyllan and I are interested in creating work with multiple layers that both reveal and hide information. As I like to tell stories, a specific memory will often be the genesis for my creating new work. Ms. Maney favors the flora and fauna, often artfully arranged into hypnotic mandalas. Her work observes and meditates on the world, both large and small, reconstructing its features into stunning and soulful visual moments. Both Kyllan and I like to cut-up and re-arrange elements, in pursuit of new meaning."*



## Kyllan Maney, Phoenix

Kyllan Maney is originally from Covington, KY, but moved to Arizona at a young age. She studied art at Arizona State University and completed an internship at the National Museum of Natural History where she fell in love with scientific illustrations. She is the chair of the Visual Arts Department at New School for the Arts and Academics in Tempe where she teaches painting and mixed media.

Maney says of her work in this exhibition, *"I like to work with the aspects of nature that come from looking at plants and objects closely, bringing feelings of tranquility, discovery, spirituality and awe. The visual foundation of my work is rooted in scientific illustrations, religious icons, human relationships and inspiration from past and current artists."*

Of the comparison between Allen's work and her own, Maney says *"Bob is a fantastic storyteller. His paintings illuminate these stories that could be read by the viewer on many different levels by his use of personal symbols to create visual tales. I see Bob Allen's work more about the external eye of the beholder, using figurative and abstract references to create his work. My work is more meditational and focuses on the internal eye. Both of our work rearranges how we see life in new and inventive ways."*