

# A N O T H E R E A R T H

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Inspired largely by the science fiction genre, this exhibition explores fictional landscapes that reveal stories about technology, time and the human condition. Artists Hall, Kirchmaier and Johnson all share an interest in depicting and manipulating seemingly familiar forms into “otherworldly” landscapes that are not quite of the here and now. Not unlike popular books and films about dystopian futures such as *The Hunger Games* or *The Matrix*, these artists have created their own alternate universes where remnants of the past and elements of future may collide and/or connect in newly imagined landscapes.

## **Dwayne Hall, Scottsdale**

Hall has been drawing and painting his whole life. He graduated from Northern Arizona University with a Bachelor of Science in art education in 1994. In recent years, he’s shown his work in many spaces including exhibitions at Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport Museum, Burton Barr Library and Tempe Center for the Arts.

His inspirations come from a variety of sources including science fiction movies and fiction, old buildings and the wonders of the solar system. He often blends these ideas together to explore new limits of his own imagination and art making abilities.

## **David W. Johnson, Tempe**

Johnson was born in Spokane, WA and moved with his family to Tempe when he was still a child. After receiving an Associates degree in graphic design, he went on to earn a graduate degree in information systems from the University of Phoenix in 2004. For the past 30 years, he’s raised a family and spent his career in the IT world. But art has continued to play a large role in his life by attending college art classes and various artist led workshops. Over the years, he’s had the opportunity to work in a variety of two and three-dimensional media including acrylics, bronze, wood, concrete and stone. He says of his work: “I would describe my work as simplistic in nature, using the bare minimum to present a snapshot of a mindscape used to convey an emotion.... Much of my work revolves around the central theme of the individual and by using light and color I attempt to evoke a feeling.”

## **Aaron Kirchmaier, Phoenix**

Kirchmaier also known as “BairBrains” describes his inner mindset growing up as “wall-papered” with a vivid imagination and dreams filled with strange music and monsters, psychedelic colors and mysterious storylines. In his teens, he was also influenced by the spray-painted graffiti he saw on trains, pop culture action figures and over-the-top 90s merchandising. Luckily, early on he found mentors, teachers and family members that encourage him to use this talent towards the arts. Before moving to Arizona, he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in illustration from Columbus College of Art and Design in Ohio.

Kirchmaier says of the exhibition grouping: “David, Dwayne, and myself share elements of other-worldly escapism in our work. All three of us show derivative components of science fiction influence... Dwayne pushes this influence to the forefront of his compositions... while David and I share a spontaneous function in our media application. The trio of works bring life to imaginative planes only found in our individual mental spaces.”