

Here Comes the Sun

April 27-Aug. 22, 2012



CalacaSol by Zarco GeGuerrero

“Here Comes the Sun” is an exhibition inspired by the 1969 George Harrison song that is still a fan favorite for many people around the world. It seems an appropriate song for Arizonans to welcome summer and its abundant sunshine.

For several decades, people have flocked to Arizona for its beautiful landscapes and year round sunshine. Today, locals and visitors alike continue to take advantage of the state’s most abundant resource for anything from agriculture and solar power, to golfing and hiking. Exhibiting artists were encouraged to display works that depict scenes about the sun or works that are inspired by the local climate.

About the Artists

Jane Kelsey-Mapel grew up in Tempe and currently resides in Phoenix. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Arizona State University and a Master of Fine Arts degree in ceramics from the University of North Texas. Her figurative ceramic works have been displayed nationally in many public and private collections. She has been featured in national publications such as *Sculpture Magazine*, *Ceramics Monthly*, *Phoenix Home and Garden* and *Sculpture Reference Illustrated*. Kelsey-Mapel currently teaches ceramics classes at Glendale Community College and art workshops at the Scottsdale Artists’ School.

As a child, Kelsey-Mapel took several ballet classes and developed an early awareness about the human form and the way people move and act. Not surprisingly, she describes her ceramic work today as a study of “gestures and psychology.” Much of her work is also semi-autobiographical and individual pieces focus on her own relationships with family and friends as well as personal growth and discovery. In essence- she is a storyteller using her own life as the narrative to talk about the human condition. (www.janekelseymapel.com)

Tempe artist **Melissa Martinez** was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and raised in Glencoe, Ill. She relocated to Arizona in 1993 and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in sculpture from Arizona State University. She has been featured in museums such as the California Museum of Photography and Phoenix Art Museum. She has also worked as an exhibition preparator at the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art and the Heard Museum. Martinez says of this installation:

“Arizona summer. Need I say more? I grew up in a suburb of Chicago on Lake Michigan. We spent the summers playing in the sand and water or frolicking in the grass catching fireflies and making clover chains. It was the idyllic childhood setting to spend a summer just being a kid. It’s funny because I now dread summer. I spend my summers waiting for fall. All this was magnified last year when I had a baby. I think of him and wonder, ‘How will we spend our summers?’ All the plants die. The flowers dry up. Birds stand in parking lots with their wings spread and their mouths open panting. This piece ‘Wither’ is about the Arizona summers. Beautiful spring flowers that have died and dried up.” (www.howestreetstudio.com)



Native Talk by Kimberly Harris

Phoenix artist **Kimberly Harris** first developed an interest in art in high school: exploring, painting, drawing and textiles. She studied architecture at Arizona State University in 1983. Eventually her passion for art resurfaced and she continued her art education by taking classes in watercolor, clay and sculpture at Arizona State University and the Phoenix Art Museum and at the Glendale, Phoenix and Mesa community colleges.

Harris describes her artwork as whimsical, colorful and graphic. She enjoys using pattern in both her two- and three-dimensional works. She combines her diverse educational backgrounds to explore a variety of materials with a recurring focus on pattern and repetition of shapes. Harris is a member of the Arizona Art Guild, the Contemporary Watercolorists of Arizona and the 22 x 30 critic group. She has participated in several commissioned projects including mural projects in Glendale and Yuma. ([www. Studiokphx.com](http://www.Studiokphx.com))

Zarco Guerrero lives in Mesa and has been an active part of the Arizona arts community for more than 30 years. He is best known for his masks and he apprenticed with master mask makers in Japan, Bali, Indonesia and China. He is a sculptor, muralist, performance artist, poet, musician and community activist. His work has appeared on PBS television and he has been honored with awards from the Arizona Commission on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Today, Guerrero teaches drawing and painting at the West Campus of Arizona State University and regularly performs and exhibits throughout the United States. Guerrero says of this series:

“Los Soles (The Suns) is a series of carved relief sculptures that express the grandeur and intensity of the desert sun. Each piece attempts to blend various Native American styles and motifs such as Hohokam, Aztec and Northwest Coast to conjure up a new way of seeing this life giving source. As an artist, I strive to give the sun a face so as to see it as a person and a deity.”