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**MUSEUM OF ARIZONA ARTISTS PRESENTS
THROUGH the EYES of the BEHOLDERS:
THREE FAMILIES COLLECT ARIZONA ART**

An Exhibition, a Reception, and a Collector's Forum

Phoenix, AZ (November 15, 2023) In celebration of 112 years of Arizona statehood, **The Museum of Arizona Artists (MOAZA)** announces the unveiling of a magnificent collection exhibition, **Through the Eyes of the Beholders: Three Families Collect Arizona Art**. Artwork on display is from collections amassed over a lifetime and generously loaned from three Arizona families from generation to generation. These are Eric and Eva Jungermann, Phoenix; Jerry Barber and Betty Barber-Hughes and their daughter, Jerre Lynn Vanier of Paradise Valley and Scottsdale; and Jeri Smith-Fornara of Prescott. The exhibition will be premiering on January 8th and running through March 6th at the Arizona Capitol Museum.

This exhibition, which is free and open to the public, aims to explore the diverse perspectives of those who engage with art, including the general public, art collectors, curators, and most importantly, the artists themselves. The exhibition communicates between the viewers and the artwork's place and memory, emotions, fantasy and imagination, and intellectual ideas.

Featuring the creations of both living and late artists from across the state, the exhibition includes a mix of emerging talents and esteemed figures such as James Turrell, Fritz Scholder, Anne Coe, Dan Namingha, and Beth Ames-Swartz, and works by Native American artists dating from the mid-twentieth century to present. The exhibition's emphasis and educational activities are designed to cater to a broad range of age groups, offering family-friendly subjects that encourage exploration and learning.

This exhibition of three family collections of Arizona artists is curated by Karen L. Churchill. She returned to her native Arizona after working at the Cleveland Museum of

Art. While there, she did her doctoral studies in Art History and Museum Studies at Case Western Reserve University, where she held a Mellon Fellowship. Currently, she resides in Prescott, AZ and teaches Art History at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. “Before moving to Ohio some thirty years ago,” Churchill stated, “I was honored to curate an exhibition of Arizona artists at the invitation of then Secretary of State Richard Mahoney and the International Friends of Transformative Art at the Arizona State Capitol. How special it is to now be working with MOAZA—the museum created by so many of the wonderful artists and collectors that I worked with before. The circle completes itself.”

Join MOAZA in this exciting journey of Arizona's artistic landscape, bridging the gap between creators and audiences, and fostering a deeper appreciation for the various perspectives that shape our understanding of art.

The opening reception will take place on Friday, January 12, 2024, in the Historic Senate Chambers on the rarely publicly accessed 3rd floor. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served. The gallery exhibition will be held on the 2nd floor.

In celebration of Statehood Day, a second gallery event, the Collector's Forum, will be held on Thursday, February 15 from 2 to 4 p.m. At this time, the collectors or their representatives, Jeri Smith-Fornara, William Jungermann, and Jerre Lynn Vanier, along with curator Karen Churchill, will present a gallery tour through the exhibition and answer your questions about the artists and creating collections.

When:

Opening Reception: Friday, January 12th, 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Collectors' Forum: Thursday, February 15th, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Exhibition opens to the public on Monday, January 8th and continues through March 6th, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Parking: Free parking is available at Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza, directly east of the Capitol building

Address: 1700 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85007

Admission: Free and open to the public

ABOUT MOAZA

The Museum of Arizona Artists (MOAZA) is a 501c3 non-profit organization on a mission to establish the historic Phoenix Carnegie Library as its permanent home.

MOAZA is Arizona's first exclusively digital museum and is currently transitioning to a physical space. Founded in 2022, the Museum of Arizona Artists was created to document and exhibit the history of Arizona art and its significant artists both past and present. MOAZA endeavors to provide educational programs to the community, and maintains a library and archives, acting as a comprehensive venue for Arizona art and art history.

MOAZA is the brainchild of Arizona artists, Joel Coplin and Jo-Ann Lowney, with the intent to found a museum specifically for showcasing Arizona artists. By enlisting the help of art professionals, art collectors, and philanthropists, they launched the currently digital museum located at MOAZA.org.

It is the vision of The Museum of Arizona Artists to tell the ongoing story of Arizona through the diverse voices of its artists from its beginning to the present.

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