

Desert Colors

April 7—August 9th

Connections Café at Tempe Public Library

Local Arizona artists Melinda Jennings and Ty McEwen are inspired by the landscape of the Southwest. Although the work of Jennings and McEwen share a common subject matter, cacti, their styles and art making processes are quite different. While they both interpret desert flora in a realistic manner, Jennings paints in a softer color palette than McEwen's vivid color choices. McEwen re-imagines the desert landscape with his own perspective and Jennings often paints on location. Native to the Americas and often associated with the Southwest, these unique plants that survive in such harsh conditions have been valued by people for thousands of years. Today, scientists study cacti to help create sustainable solutions, such as energy efficiency, water resistance and water conservation. This process of "copying nature to create new ideas and products" is called biomimicry. This summer (May 19-Aug. 26), the Gallery at Tempe Center for the Arts is coordinating an exhibition called "*Biomimicry: nature inspired design*" that also reflects on the value of bio-inspired work that utilizes the arts and sciences as overlapping strategies for inquiry and innovation.

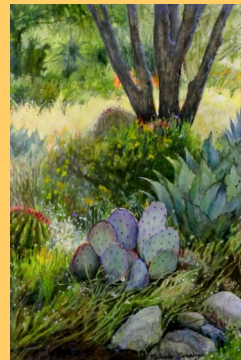


Ty McEwen
Agave
oil on canvas

Ty McEwen, Phoenix

McEwen is originally from Utah and he says the Southwest landscape is a point of inspiration for him. He recalls that he has had an inclination to create art from a very young age. Today, he often goes hiking, where he takes photos of desert plants, rock formations and wildlife for later reference. He paints in oils because he feels it is the best medium to capture realism. In addition to painting on canvas, McEwen is also a tattoo artist who specializes in realistic portraiture and bio-organic styled tattoos. Although he is based out of Phoenix, he often travels to be a featured artist at multiple tattoo studios around the country.

www.tymcewen.com



Melinda Jennings
Cactus Garden
oil on canvas

Melinda Blake Jennings, Mesa

Jennings is both an artist and entrepreneur. After studying art in college, she began a mural business painting private residences and offices. Six years into her mural venture, she found a new passion for painting on canvas. Jennings has been represented by galleries in Sedona and California. Her work has been featured in a number of exhibitions, including a year-long display at the Arizona State House of Representatives during the State Centennial Celebration.

www.melindajennings.com