

# CURIOcity

This exhibition is part of a series of arts and technology inspired programs called *CURIOcity Tempe* taking place in 2020. The theme celebrates the curious minds that thrive on connecting ideas across disciplines. Throughout the year visitors of all ages can see contemporary art made by some of the best local and national artists who seek to understand the world through scholarship, collaboration and innovative art making.

Four separate *WEAVE* exhibitions kick off the *CURIOcity* season taking place in visual art galleries at Tempe Center for the Arts, Tempe Public Library and the Tempe Post Office on Mill Avenue.

Learn More about CURIOcity programs and Tempe Galleries at  
[www.tempecenterforthearts.com/TCAgallery](http://www.tempecenterforthearts.com/TCAgallery)

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## ***weave***

***material importance***

Dec. 13 - April 15, 2020

Generally, when someone uses the word “weave” they are referring to woven textiles or hair. However, for this exhibition, the word is used to describe the

way in which artists intertwine materials, processes and ideas.

These artists were selected during a jury process and placed together because they each make work using traditional methods such as papermaking, printmaking and ceramics. These processes have been used across many cultures and developed over vast amounts of time. Papermaking and printmaking can be traced back to ancient China around 105 AD and later brought to Europe in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. The use of clay to make pottery vessels and ceramics figures goes back thousands of years to Paleolithic Periods. The earliest examples have been found in the Czech Republic and China.

In today's world of high-tech devices such as smart phones and self-driving cars, artists Annie Alexander, Jo Andersen and Tamaki Matsumoto choose to use technologies from times long past to bring contemporary images, thoughts and ideas to new audiences.

Annie Alexander, Prescott

Alexander was born and raised in New York and says she's always loved to create. She worked as a graphic designer for 30 years and relished opportunities to select and collect unique papers to use in her work. Today she lives in Prescott where the mountains have provided the perfect environment for finding fibrous materials to create handmade paper. She collects and utilizes natural resources like Milkweed, bugs, blossoms, Dog Bane, banana fiber (Abaca) and Cicada Wings. She also visits her local Goodwill store to find old linen tablecloths that can be cut up and repurposed for paper production.

Paper making involves a lot of labor, time and patience. Over the course of the process, Alexander does a lot of various steps like cutting, cooking, washing, beating and mixing to break down materials into a liquid slurry that can then be manipulated and dried to make paper. Its hard work which she says often mirrors rural life and the hard work it takes to maintain land and home.

Alexander says her art *“reflects the tensions between fragility and strength of nature and expresses the universe of texture and pattern that lies just below the threshold of consciousness.”*

[anniealexanderart.com](http://anniealexanderart.com)

Jo Andersen, Tucson

Andersen is a Tucson-based printmaker, painter and maker of artists' books. Her current work involves combining various printmaking and photography processes to create unique or limited-edition pieces.

Over the years she has developed a strong interest in environmental and social issues. She also pays close attention and care to her own thoughts, dreams and connections to the natural world, especially her desert surroundings.

Andersen says, *“My artists' books begin as a visual idea filled with a concept that develops alone with the images. Using a printing press, hand rubbings and silkscreens, the images summon words, eventually through mock ups and false starts all this matter becomes an artist's book. The tactile complexity of*

*handmade and plant dyed paper, altered photos and hand printed images, work in concert with the concept.”*

joandersen.com

## Tamaki Matsumoto, Glendale

Matsumoto is a Japanese-American artist who was born in Glendale. In 2018 she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Arizona State University with an emphasis in ceramics. Her interest in clay started at an early age after watching amazing videos of ceramics artists who could make human-size pots on a wheel.

Matsumoto's works are inspired by her Japanese heritage, the natural world and her ancestrally informed spiritual beliefs. She uses clay to express the tie she feels between herself, nature and the spiritual world. In recent work, she's been exploring traditions that teach to hold nature and life precious, even insects.

Originally, Matsumoto had a strong dislike for insects. But, after a visit to the Natural History Collections at ASU where she saw specimens up close, she changed her mind. She says, *“when I looked closely at each specimen, I was surprised by how each individual insect has beautiful colors and details on their bodies and legs.”*

tamaki-matsumoto-arts-ceramic.weebly.com

WEAVE exhibitions also include:

***WEAVE: Construct, Code, Connect***

Jan 17- May 16

Gallery at Tempe Center for the Arts

700 W. Rio Salado Parkway, Tempe, AZ 85281

***WEAVE II: Construct***

Jan 24-June 6

Tempe Post Office

500 South Mill Avenue, Tempe, AZ 85281

***WEAVE: Code & Create***

Feb 21-June 17

Tempe Public Library Lower Level Lobby