BRECKENRIDGE CREATIVE ARTS
EXHIBITION TOUR
FOR
FIRE ARTS FESTIVAL 2017

breckcreate.org
FIRE ARTS FESTIVAL

EXHIBITIONS

AT THE BRECKENRIDGE THEATER AND THE OLD MASONIC HALL

JANUARY 14TH THROUGH FEBRUARY 8TH 2016
EXHIBITION: HOT WAX: ENCAUSTIC ART

• FEATURING: Alix Christian, Susan Delgavis, Victoria Eubanks + Marco Montanari
• LOCATION: Breckenridge Theater
• DESCRIPTION: A group exhibition that represents four unique style of encaustic painting. Works demonstrate the inherent qualities of this ancient yet contemporary medium: **depth, texture and luminosity.**
• HISTORY: The word “encaustic” originates from Greek word “enkaustikos” which means “to burn in,” and the application of fire or heat is integral to the encaustic process. The oldest existing encaustic panels date back to 1st Century Roman and Egyptian portraits.
ALIX CHRISTIAN

Hometown: Boulder, CO

Medium and process: Encaustic art is created by mixing beeswax, tree resin and pigmented colors, and then heating layers with a blow torch. Metal tools and special brushes are used to shape wet paint and heated tools can be used to manipulate the wax once it has cooled.

Background: BFA College of Art and Design, Portland, OR. MA in Art History and MFA in Studio Arts, West Texas A&M University.
ARTIST STATEMENT

“This process thrills me. encaustic. beeswax. tree resin. pigment. and heat. Well, it doesn’t thrill me all of the time. but, there are so many aspects to it, it keeps me intrigued. Even on a not so energetic day I can progress in some small way: making wooden panels, sanding, gluing, making medium, cleaning up waxy messes, scraping wax off of the floor, cutting and collecting collage pieces, watching wax melt, organizing and grouping panels, figuring panel sizes and counting inventory, planning frames, cleaning more wax off the floor, melting more wax, oh, and then, there is the making art part. I love that process too.”

-Alix
PROCESS

How is Alix’s process apparent in these images?

Can you think of other activities in your life which involve multiple steps or layers? Cooking, playing sports, doing chores?

Does order and timing matter in these activities?

Would you describe this work as three dimensional or two dimensional? How is depth created?
SUSAN DELGAVIS

Hometown: Ohio


Background: BA from Bryn Mawr College, Medical Degree from Thomas Jefferson University.
How would you describe the **TEXTURE** of these paintings? Can you think of practical applications that involve using fire to create texture? For example: branding livestock, burnishing wood, blow torch cooking for recipes like crème brulee etc.
Hometown: Denver, CO

Medium and Process: Encaustic Paintings of lines, birds, bicycles, boats and round repeated shapes.

Background: Worked as a graphic designer before becoming an encaustic artist.

How is luminosity, or the intrinsic brightness of an object, enhanced through this medium?
IN OUR CONTEMPORARY WORLD, WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO CREATE?

“So I am a maker. I can’t draw worth beans; my art is not figurative. I find other ways to create images. I can easily cross between the two worlds of digital and manual design. I love using all the tools at my disposal, from pixels, to palette knife to heat torch. I love the exuberance of it all. All of this activity, this need to be tactile, is perhaps my small, personal rebellion against being plugged in all the time.”- Victoria
MARCO MONTANARI

Hometown: Boulder, CO

Medium and Process: Marco has developed a unique alternative to the “burn-in” process of traditional encaustic painting. (see next page for more details)

Background: Marco was a guest artist at the Tin Shop in 2015 and has been regularly teaching his encaustic process at workshops on the Breckenridge Arts District Campus and in Boulder.
Marco's unique process involves sculpting wax on wood panels and painting the surface with pigmented paraffin. Using paraffin instead of traditional beeswax keeps his colors truer and brighter and does not require the fusing of each layer like traditional encaustic. Marco's blend also creates a wide range of textures, faux finishes, engravings and sculpted effects.

**Paraffin is a flammable, white, translucent, waxy solid, made up of saturated hydrocarbons, polishes, and sealing and waterproofing compounds. Sometimes it is used as fuel.**
URBAN COMBUSTION

• FEATURING: MARTIN DEEGAN + GABE KIRCHHEIMER

• LOCATION: OLD MASONIC HALL

• DESCRIPTION: An exhibition that ignites two artists’ urban sensibilities through mixed media and photography. Subject matter provokes contemplation on the individual within society and the dichotomy of natural vs. man-made environments.
MARTIN DEEGAN

• **Hometown:** Breckenridge CO

• **Medium and Process:** Martin is a painter and multimedia artist who draws on personal experiences and uses original processes to create a wide variety of work.

• **Background:** Martin moved to Breck in 2007 and opened Godspeed Tattoo. In 2014 he sold Godspeed to focus on his artwork.
ANCIENT OR CONTEMPORARY MEDIUM?

- Although encaustic art has been around since the 1st century, the popularity of the medium has come and gone due to the inherent labor involved in the process. In the 1960’s, Jasper Johns became one of the first contemporary artists to re-adopt the medium, and it has since become more widespread in the artworld.
GABE KIRCHHEIMER

• **Hometown:** New York

• **Medium and process:** In addition to photography, Gabe works as a magazine editor, musician, and music and film producer.

BURNING MAN

• Many of Gabe’s photographs are taken at Burning Man, an art event in Nevada’s Black Rock Desert, where hundreds of artworks and 70,000 participants annually gather. The motto of Burning Man is “no spectators” and the included artwork is interactive and accessible.
The first “burners” gathered in 1986 in San Francisco but the festival quickly grew from 20 people to over 60,000 by 2012, so the event was relocated.

The current location of the festival is close to Gerlach (population 56). Visitors must come prepared and many people wear masks and goggles to protect themselves from the severe dust storms.
COMMUNITY AND ART

Participants at Burning Man must bring all of their own food, water and camping supplies, as nothing but coffee, tea, lemonade and ice is sold. Other commerce is outlawed and even barter is discouraged in favor of a “gift economy.”

In this setting, what purpose does art serve?