



## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Media Contacts

Robb Woulfe, Breckenridge Creative Arts  
970 453 3187 ext 1 | robb@breckcreate.org

Nancy Rebek, NRPR  
303 941 2527 | nancy@nrpr.com

## FIRE ARTS FESTIVAL RETURNS TO BRECKENRIDGE

January 26–29, 2017

Featuring fiery sculptures, performances and demos in the Arts District

BRECKENRIDGE, CO (November 16 2016) – Breckenridge Creative Arts is pleased to announce the return of the **Fire Arts Festival**, a four-day exhibition that runs from 5 to 9 pm on **January 26, 27 and 28**, and from 5 to 8 pm on **January 29, 2017**. Now in its third year, the free, family-friendly event features an array of massive, fire-breathing sculptures; performances by fire dancers while a DJ spins tunes; make-and-take art projects; and nightly demonstrations of hot arts, which encompass any art form that uses heat or fire, such as silversmithing, ceramics, candle making, glasswork and encaustics.

“The past couple of Fire Arts Festivals have proven to be extremely popular with locals and guests, especially with the activities being held in conjunction with the International Snow Sculpture Championships” said Robb Woulfe, President and CEO of Breckenridge Creative Arts. “For our 2017 edition, we are expanding the program to include even more burning sculptures, pyrotechnical performances, and other spark-filled attractions.” Guests are encouraged to attend the spectacle of the Fire Arts Festival before or after viewing the icy marvels featured at the International Snow Sculpture Championships, located just down the street in the Tiger Dredge Parking Lot, immediately next to the Riverwalk Center.

Highlights at this year’s Fire Arts Festival include large- and small-scale pieces by nationally known fire sculptors that will be illuminated in and around the Arts District campus, including flammable metal works by **Keith D’Angelo, Ryon Gesink, Justin Gray, Shane Shane, Jamie Vaida, Joshua Birkmaier and Caitlin Morris**. In addition, the campus’ outdoor kiln yard will be lit with raku- and wood-firing demonstrations, and the indoor studios will be aglow with flame-related demonstrations by local artists, including glass blower **Todd Brower**,

silversmith **Martha Peterson-Glomb**, encaustic painters **Victoria Eubanks and Marco Montanari**, and candle makers **Bernadette Foley and Chris Simoni** with Breckenridge Candle Cabin.

“We are so lucky to have these creative individuals living and working within our community,” said Jenn Cram, director of public programs and engagement for Breckenridge Creative Arts, which puts on the festival each year. “The Fire Arts Festival is a celebration of fire and the hot arts,” she said. “The Hot Shop is the studio where several of the hot arts come to life. We will be firing it up that weekend.”

Of course the wildly popular fire sculptures return, this time lighting up an expanded area in and around the Breckenridge Arts District campus. Artist Jamie Vaida returns to unveil his “Music Tree,” a fire sculpture hewn of musical instruments he designed for partner fire arts festivals in Breckenridge and Telluride. Keith D’Angelo returns with a kinetic, interactive piece reminiscent of a mandala, and Ryon Gesink returns with “Demon Throne.” Several new sculptors add their talents to the mix this year, including Justin Gray of Graywrx Fabrication, who will showcase two fiery robots; Shane Shane from Albuquerque, New Mexico, who will show “Obelisk” and “Biodiversity Fire Sphere,” made from a 1950’s era, 500-gallon propane tank; and Joshua Birkmaier and Caitlin Morris of Gammaspace Artist Collective in Denver, who are bringing their large-scale work “Arcus Hymenoptera” to Breckenridge.

Recognized as one of the top mountain resort destinations in the world, Breckenridge is a beautiful and historic Colorado town that attracts over a million visitors yearly. Nestled in the heart of the Central Rocky Mountains, the town offers year-round activities to please outdoor enthusiasts, vacationing families and cultural travelers.

As an umbrella organization that promotes arts, culture and creative experiences, Breckenridge Creative Arts (BCA) is responsible for the successful management of a series of programs, properties and partnerships which collectively animate and populate a cultural corridor in the heart of downtown Breckenridge. BCA’s signature events include the Fire Arts Festival, WAVE: Light + Water + Sound, Street Arts Festival, Breckenridge International Festival of Arts (BIFA) and the annual Dia de los Muertos celebration. From quality performing and visual arts to the development of the Breckenridge Arts District, a Colorado-Certified Creative District, Breckenridge Creative Arts is a transformative force for Breckenridge and the greater Summit County community. For more information visit [breckcreate.org](http://breckcreate.org).

The Fire Arts Festival is made possible with generous support from the Town of Breckenridge along with media partner Mountain Living. A detailed schedule of festival events. More information on Fire Arts Festival installations and artists follows. For the most up to date information and schedule, please visit: [breckcreate.org/faf](http://breckcreate.org/faf)

## **SCULPTORS /SCULPTURES**

ARTIST: Keith D’Angelo

SCULPTURE: Operation of Creation

DESCRIPTIVE: Former Summit County local Keith D’Angelo has exhibited his work across the state and at the Burning Man Festival in Nevada. His flaming heart sculpture was included in the inaugural Breckenridge Creative Arts Fire Arts Festival, and his 7-foot high flaming sculpture, “Love,” was showcased in 2016. This year, D’Angelo presents: “Operation of Creation,” an interactive flame-based work inspired by the mandala.

ARTIST: Ryon Gesink

SCULPTURE: Kali, Jabberwock + Mini-Spinner

DESCRIPTIVE: Ryon Gesink has always been fascinated with pyrotechnics, explosions and fire, and his sculptures reflect this passion. To create his work, he uses a combination of basic tools: welders, band saws, drill presses, plasma cutters and clamps. Demon Throne + Jabberwock are inspired by science fiction and represent a cross between art and technology.

ARTIST: Justin Gray

SCULPTURE: Fiery Robots: Libby + Charlie

DESCRIPTIVE: Weighing in at 3,500 pounds and rising seven feet tall, Libby is a large robot featuring a suspended fire ball fueled by propane and methanol. Libby is constructed of Mauldin asphalt paver, stripped of excess steel and welded into hydraulic tracks. Charlie weighs in at 1,500 pounds and spits fire off a turbine electric track robot. While both Libby and Charlie are made from industrial materials, both machines have a personable quality.

ARTIST: Shane Shane

SCULPTURE: Biodiversity Fire Sphere + Obelisk

DESCRIPTIVE: Shane Shane's Biodiversity Fire Sphere + Obelisk is constructed from a 500-gallon propane tank from the 1950s. "The ecosystem is important to every creature," explains Shane. "Each part is represented in this piece." This sculpture is hand-cut by the artist and includes dolphins, elephants, rhinos, an owl, a wolf and various sea creatures. The sphere was first exhibited at the Burning Man Festival in Black Rock Desert, Nevada.

ARTIST: Jamie Vaida

SCULPTURE: Music Tree

DESCRIPTIVE: Music Tree is a custom-crafted sculpture, made of hand-bent steel pipe that is hand patinated and powder coated. Vaida has spent years creating sculptural art, often functional, from recycled metals and has exhibited his work at the Burning Man Festival in Nevada. Jamie is creating Music tree for the Telluride and Breckenridge fire festivals.

ARTISTS: Joshua Birkmaier + Caitlin Morris

SCULPTURE: Arcus Hymenoptera

DESCRIPTIVE: Joshua Birkmaier and Caitlin Morris of Gammaspace Artist Collective in Denver are bringing Arcus Hymenoptera to the Breckenridge Fire Arts Festival. Born out of the Colorado Burning Man community, these seasoned artists and production managers have been working together to create large-scale art installations for many years.

## **FIRE PERFORMERS**

ARTIST: Dream Team Spinners

DESCRIPTION: The Dream Team Spinners use innovative techniques to create work that pushes our expectations and notions of fire. Trained in fire management technique, the team prioritizes safety while choreographing spectacular performances. Dancers use various props to create vivid patterns and illusions, producing an entrancing visual effect.

## **FIRE ARTS DEMOS**

ARTIST: Todd Brower

DEMO TYPE: Lampworking

DESCRIPTION: Todd will demonstrate the basics of lampworking, a type of glasswork where a torch or lamp is primarily used to melt glass rods. Once in a molten state, the glass is formed by blowing and shaping with hand movements and tools.

ARTISTS: Bernadette Foley + Chris Simoni, Breckenridge Candle Cabin

DEMO TYPE: Handmade soy candles

DESCRIPTION: Watch how Bernadette and Chris make their eco-friendly soy candles. They will mix, wick, pour, cure and create.

ARTIST: Victoria Eubanks

DEMO: Encaustic painting

DESCRIPTION: Watch Victoria layer, torch and move wax with fire to create paintings that have depth and luminosity. She will demonstrate fusing, etching, filling, how to create texture and a variety of techniques for transferring images.

ARTIST: Martha Peterson-Glomb

DEMO: Silversmithing

DESCRIPTION: Martha is a Breckenridge-based silversmith. She will demonstrate the art of silversmithing using an acetylene torch, saws, drill and hammers to create wearable art.

ARTIST: Marco Montanari

DEMO + MAKE-AND-TAKE: Encaustic painting

DESCRIPTION: Marco has developed a unique alternative to the “burn-in” process of traditional encaustic painting. Guests are invited to paint and play using an amazing range of pigmented wax.

###