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## **BRECKENRIDGE ARTS DISTRICT PREVIEW**

**SEPTEMBER 25-28, 2014**

**Highlights include artist workshops, studio tours, musical performances, and more.**

BRECKENRIDGE, CO (September 10, 2014) – Breckenridge Creative Arts, in partnership with the Town of Breckenridge, announces a special preview of the highly anticipated **Breckenridge Arts District** from **September 25 through 28, 2014**. The weekend celebration will give visitors and locals an opportunity to discover the new campus facilities and to engage with creatives from the Breckenridge community and beyond. The event includes studio tours, workshops, demonstrations, exhibitions, installations, musical performances, culinary samplings from area restaurants, and refreshments from the local craft beverage community.

With an eclectic program that features a graffiti art contest, nature-themed body art paintings, aerial and acrobatic acts, and a late night DJ dance party, the four-day preview event features a wide variety of local, regional, and national artists in the visual and performing arts. Activities include: craft workshops and demonstrations by **Monica Cowing, Sumi von Dassow, Victoria Eubanks, Dian Fechenbach, James “East” Foster, Marlene Gruetter, Theresa Haberkorn, Kim Harrell, Chris Hobach, Suzanne Jenne, Kelly Landis, Samantha Madden, Kimberly Nicoletti, Michelle Woods Pennisi, and Malcolm Mobutu Smith**; exhibitions by **Liam Doran and Ben Pond**; environmental installations by **Elise Brewster**; body art and extreme face painting by **Leah Reddell and Alison Kenyon**; circus arts performances by **MOTH Poetic Circus**; and musical sets by **The Living Wills, Jaxophonix, Jaden Carlson Band, Rob Drabkin, Salem, Dean Misantoni, Sarah & The Meanies, Ian Cooke, Eldren, and DJ Cyn**. In addition, world-renowned sculptor **Albert Paley** will be making an appearance and leading a free, public lecture in support his recently commissioned sculpture, “Syncline”, which will be installed in downtown Breckenridge next year.

All activities for the preview event take place in studios and outdoor spaces within the Breckenridge Arts District, located on the corner of South Ridge Street and East Washington Avenue, just off of Main Street in the heart of downtown Breckenridge. Detailed information with a full schedule of activities, including event times and locations, is available at [breckcreate.org](http://breckcreate.org).

**Breckenridge Creative Arts | 150 W. Adams Avenue | Breckenridge, CO 80424 | [breckcreate.org](http://breckcreate.org)**

The development of the Breckenridge Arts District has been a multi-year effort. Town Council and key staff are credited with originating the idea as a way to provide an additional layer of activity for visitors and residents through creative experiences that reflect and celebrate Breckenridge culture. The vision was, and continues to be, to develop a district that would bring together studios, galleries, performance spaces, historic landmarks, public art, restaurants, cafes, and other creative businesses in downtown Breckenridge.

The Town of Breckenridge began planning its arts campus over a decade ago. After being inspired by a field trip to Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Snowmass Village in 2001, the Breckenridge Town Council saw the potential of reusing historic barns and sheds for artist studios and creative spaces. It was then envisioned that the core attraction to the Breckenridge Arts District would be a new multi-facility arts campus that hosted workshops, exhibits, artists-in-residence, and a variety of other creative activities.

At the time, the town's portfolio of cultural assets already included the Riverwalk Center and a robust public art program, but after seeing the success of Anderson Ranch as well as the emergence of several other arts districts throughout the state and country, the council was inspired to invest in a similar model as a way to support the creative and economic development of the town.

From there, staff immediately started the planning process, and 13 years later, Breckenridge prepares to introduce its long-awaited arts campus this September. With a focus on educational and experiential enrichment, programs include classes in several media such as textiles, ceramics, metalwork, painting, and more. Complete with decorative plazas, sculpture gardens, and an outdoor stone amphitheater, the new one-acre campus of restored historic structures includes the following studios and creative spaces:

- Fuqua Livery Stable (painting, drawing, beading, and one studio to rent to local artists)
- Quandary Antiques Cabin (children's workshops)
- J. R. Hodges Tin Shop (live/work for guest/visiting artists)
- Randall Barn (printmaking and textiles and one studio to rent to local artists)
- Robert Whyte House (live/work studio for guest/visiting artists)
- Burro Barn (public restrooms)
- Hot Shop (metalsmithing, glasswork, and encaustic painting)
- Ceramic Studio (with one studio in lower level to rent to local artist)
- Little Red Shed (gas kiln and storage for kiln yard)
- Kiln Yard (pitfiring, woodfiring, and raku)
- Ridge Street Art Square (special events)

The opening of the Breckenridge Arts District coincides with the development of the Town of Breckenridge's new umbrella arts organization, Breckenridge Creative Arts. Established in 2014, Breckenridge Creative Arts (BreckCreate) was developed by the town to support and promote arts, culture, and creative experiences throughout Breckenridge. This division of town government, which will branch off to become its own multidisciplinary nonprofit organization in 2015, is responsible for the successful management of a series of programs, facilities, and partnerships that collectively animate and populate a cultural corridor in the heart of

downtown Breckenridge. From quality performing and visual arts to the development of one of the region's newest arts districts, Breckenridge Creative Arts is a transformative force for Breckenridge and the greater Summit County community.

A list of all artists participating in the Breckenridge Arts District preview weekend follows. For a detailed schedule of activities and for the most up-to-date information, please visit [breckcreate.org](http://breckcreate.org).

## SPECTACLE + FAMILY ATTRACTIONS

### **MOTH Poetic Circus**

MOTH Poetic Circus: Movement Of The Heart was born from the desire to combine cutting edge contemporary circus with live music to create a poetic experience for the masses. Watch them morph before your eyes as they bend, flex, fly, and defy the bounds of the human body.

### **Body Art and Extreme Face Creations**

Artists Leah Reddell and Alison Kenyon have replaced canvas with the human body, transforming their living models into objects of art inspired by the natural world. Whether you are interested in participating or just want to observe, you are guaranteed an adventure in pigment that transcends painting and becomes true spectacle.

## BANDS + MUSICAL ARTISTS

**Ian Cooke** is a singer, songwriter, cellist, and pianist out of Denver, Colorado. A one-man chamber ensemble, he specializes in forlorn folk and complex compositions. He was voted Best Avant-Pop for 3 years by Westword Magazine.

**DJ Cyn** is a versatile DJ who lights up the dancefloor with her mix of Hip Hop, House, Funk, Dubstep, Rock, Soul, Drum & Bass, Indie, Electronic, and Mash-up. Cyn regularly plays clubs and special events throughout the region.

**Rob Drabkin**, a Denver, Colorado native, has become a powerful mainstay in the live music scene. With earnestness and originality, Drabkin thrives within stylistic excursions that range from driving folk rock to understated experiments with classical musicians.

**Eldren**, based in Denver, Colorado, mixes psychedelic pop with a wide variety of genres, creating a sound that perpetually surprises and translates into a universally appealing, impressive live show.

**Jaden Carlson Band** is a power trio based out of Boulder, Colorado that melds funk, soul, jazz, fusion, and rock. Led by the young guitar phenom, they expertly perform an infectious originals and carefully selected covers.

**Jaxophonix**, a Colorado trio comprised of David Thomas Bailey, Jacques "Jax" Delaquerre, and David Petry, will entertain you with an eclectic Jazz sound.

**The Living Wills** is a high-energy rock and blues band from Denver, Colorado that plays music that makes people feel good and want to dance.

**Dean Misantoni** is a songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and mining geologist from in Alma, Colorado. He collects lefty stringed instruments and has played in many bands, most recently "Raised on Rhubarb."

**Salem**, based in Boulder, Colorado, performs Todd Anders Johnson's socially conscious compositions blending hip-hop, jazz and neo-soul. The band has been performing nationally for 7 years at festivals, clubs, and action sports events.

**Sarah & The Meanies** features Sarah Angela, a Pacific Northwest transplant whose style has matured into an urban, slightly southern, and painfully earnest soulful sound. In 2013, she formed her band, which kicked off the year with a feature at Austin's South by Southwest and a headlining gig at the historic Red Rocks Amphitheatre.

## **VISUAL + INSTALLATION ARTISTS**

**Elise Brewster**, Brewster Design Arts, is a sculptor practicing in the field of art, landscape, architecture, and design. She has designed and built numerous installations in Israel, Africa, Japan, and Europe. Her drawings and paintings are in numerous private collections and publications.

**Monica Cowing** attended Truman State University in Northeast Missouri where she studied Visual Communications and Fibers Arts. She enjoys creating artwork, teaching workshops in the Breckenridge Arts District, and playing outdoors.

**Sumi von Dassow** is an award-winning ceramic artist who teaches pottery for the Washington Heights Art Center in Lakewood, and has conducted pit-firing workshops throughout the country. She writes for Pottery Making Illustrated Magazine, and her latest book, called "In the Potter's Kitchen," will be released in September 2014.

**Liam Doran** is an award-winning outdoor sports, travel, and lifestyle photographer based in Breckenridge, Colorado. Liam's work can be found on covers, gallery spreads and feature articles in today's best outdoor magazines.

**Victoria Eubanks** brings thirty years of graphic sensibility and design experience to her art studio. She has developed and presented encaustic techniques workshops at Arapahoe Community College, Art Students League of Denver, the Madden Museum of Art, and the Breckenridge Arts District.

**Diane Fechenbach** has a passion for capturing dramatic light and shadow in oil, watercolor, and pastel. She enjoys teaching and helping other artists find their "artistic voice" and discover their passion.

**James "East" Foster** is a classically trained artist who graduated from the Chicago Academy of Fine and Performing Arts. Currently a world-renowned international painting figure, East continues to not only invent new graffiti styles but to reinvent himself, securing his spot as one of the world's most influential and respected names in the Hip Hop culture.

**Marlene Gruetter** is a textile artist who focuses on designing and creating custom made felt wearables and textiles. Her unique Shambolic style of felt making has been featured in the international Australian magazine FELT. Marlene currently works on her projects at Seni Studio located in Scottown, Ohio.

**Theresa Haberkorn** graduated from the University of South Florida with a degree in printmaking. Her work has shown in national and international exhibits and galleries, and can be found in numerous private and corporate collections. Theresa is a popular instructor, sharing her knowledge of woodcut printmaking.

**Kim Harrell** is a Denver native and an award-winning silversmith and jewelry designer working from her studio in Aurora, Colorado. She received her formal training as a silversmith/goldsmith at London Guildhall University and ran a successful business as a studio maker in London.

**Chris Hosbach** has been making ceramics for over 15 years in Breckenridge, Colorado. He enjoys experimenting with all facets of ceramics, and learning and teaching as much as he can.

**Suzanne Jenne** is an award-winning painter and mixed media artist who has been creating for over 20 years. She lives in Colorado and has produced and participated in scores of art shows and creative events. Suzanne teaches lively, fun, and insightful workshops.

**Kelly Landis** is a Breckenridge artist focusing on ceramics. She enjoys using imagery in her work that encompasses various themes in her life.

**Samantha Madden** grew up in a very small town in Vermont. Her passion for detailed pen and ink illustrations and digital design grew and evolved when she moved to Colorado. She finds inspiration in the outdoors: mountains, plants, and trees are recurring themes featured in her artwork.

**Kimberly Nicoletti** earned a bachelor's degree in Creative Writing and English, and a master's degree in Somatic Psychology. She has been published in a variety of national magazine and works a freelance writer and editor in Summit County and teaches creative writing through the Breckenridge Arts District and Colorado Mountain College.

**Albert Paley** is a world-renowned metal sculptor. From his studio in Rochester, New York, he has spent the last 30 years producing memorable gateways and large-scale site specific works. The magnitude of Odyssey is the largest of Paley's career. He moved fabrication to a larger facility to accommodate two large cranes and individual sculptures more than 50 feet high.

**Michelle Woods Pennisi** received her B.F.A. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with an emphasis in ceramic arts and ceramics at Utah State University. Michelle currently resides in Dillon, Colorado and is teaches ceramics at Colorado Mountain College in Breckenridge.

**Ben Pond** is based in Eagle, Colorado. His artwork has been exhibited nationally at galleries and museums, including: RedLine in Denver, Colorado; the Toledo Museum of Art, Ohio; the South Bend Museum of Art, Indiana; and the Clara Hatton Gallery at Colorado State University.

**Malcolm Mobutu Smith**, known as the godfather of Hip Hop pottery, is an artist and teacher. He instructs all levels of graduate and undergraduate ceramics as associate professor of ceramic art and director of graduate studies for the Indiana University's Henry Radford Hope School of Fine Arts in Bloomington, Indiana. With nearly 20 years of experience, he uses a unique combination of education from the academy of fine arts training to mentorship from street and Hip Hop art.

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