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Cacerolazo by Saskia Jorda.

Saskia Jorda/Photo by Lynn Trimble

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# Here's the Best Art We Saw in Metro Phoenix in December 2017

**LYNN TRIMBLE** | DECEMBER 29, 2017 | 6:00AM

The best art we spotted in December ranged from a small tarot card-size drawing to an installation featuring more than 100 pots and pans. One artist created work inspired by her father's recent death, and another made art infused with Venezuelan culture. Here's a look back at the best works of art we saw during

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*Cacerotazo*

Inspired by her family's Venezuelan roots, Scottsdale artist Saskia Jorda created an installation for a **Phoenix Art Museum** pop-up space at **CityScape**. The title references a tradition of banging on pots and pans as a form of protest. The exhibition continues through Sunday, January 7, 2018.

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*Bunny Ears Prickly Pear* (detail) by Jake Early.

**Jake Early/Photo by Lynn Trimble**

### *Bunny Ears Prickly Pear*

One of several works featured in Jake Early's "Printed Desert" exhibition, which filled nearly an entire wall at **Practical Art** for the month of December, this piece reveals Early's gift for imbuing everyday sightings with warmth and charm. The exhibition runs through Sunday, December 31.

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2017

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Work by the Fortoul Brothers at Shortcut Gallery.

**Fortoul Brothers/Photo by Lynn Trimble**

*Untitled*

One of many small drawings in the Fortoul Brothers' "Total Eclipse" series shown at **Shortcut Gallery**, this piece depicts a woman using what Gabriel Fortoul calls "the power of sound/speech to make change amongst the turbulent waters." In doing so, he says, she restores "the balance of energies above the pyramid."



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Aileen Frick/Photo by Lynn Trimble

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*Windows*

For a December exhibition called “Man + Man,” Aileen Frick showed several works exploring “peoples’ relationships with themselves and each other,” according to **Found:RE Phoenix** exhibition materials. The show includes several depictions of the Phoenix art scene, including this image capturing a familiar view of historic Grand Avenue.

AA

*Luster 29* by Mary Meyer.

Mary Meyer/Photo by Lynn Trimble

*Luster 29*

This new piece by Mary Meyer was created using cast aluminum, wood, graphite, and sewing needle. It was one of several works featured in her solo exhibition in a gallery space at London Gold in Scottsdale. This year, Meyer’s work has also been shown at Phoenix Art Museum.

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*Black Cloud* (detail) by Carlos Amorales.

23

**Carlos Amorales/Photo by Lynn Trimble**

### *Black Cloud*

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Phoenix Art Museum brought back an installation by Carlos Amorales that comprises 25,000 black paper moths and butterflies based on 30 actual species. Amorales was inspired by a visit with his ailing grandmother, as well as the annual monarch butterfly migrations, according to museum materials. It's on view through November 4, 2018.

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*Losing Our Shirt* by Ann Morton.

**Ann Morton/Photo by Lynn Trimble**

### *Losing Our Shirt*

The "Blur" exhibition curated by Ted Decker of Phoenix Institute of



**Phoenix Comicon 2018 will run from May 24 through 28**

Gallery at [Mesa Community](#)

[College](#) includes this work by fiber artist Ann Morton, who hand-cut a found food worker's shirt to create this 2009 piece. It's part of her "Collective Cover" project, in which objects prompt reflection on their "origin, human connections and history." The show is up through Friday, February 2, 2018.

AA



One of many geometric forms in Rossitza Todorova's Eye Lounge exhibition.

**Rossitza Todorova/Photo by Lynn Trimble**

### *Turn*

Rossitza Todorova coupled this geometric form with video for her "Distance is Measured in Time" exhibition at [Eye Lounge](#), which grew out of the artist's experience of her father's recent death. The show includes pieces she describes as "simplified geometric sculptures that stand in for the fragility of grieving." When the video isn't running behind this suspended form (as shown here), the viewer

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streaming through a round gallery window. The exhibition continues through Sunday, January 14, 2018.

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*Precious/Unprecious* by Karen Hunter McLaughlin

Karen Hunter McLaughlin/Photo by Lynn Trimble

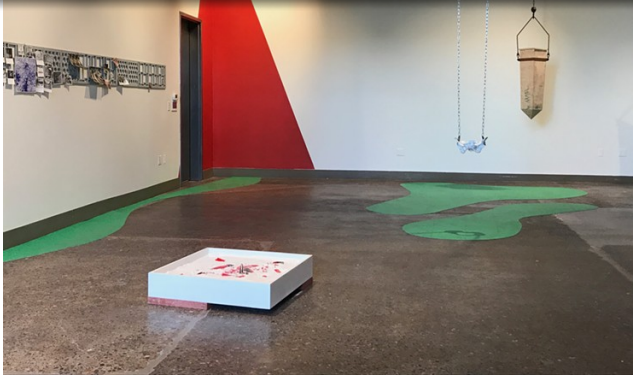
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### *Precious/Unprecious*

Recently, **Modified Arts** put out a call for works created with a particular size postal box, and received an impressive array of works that show artists using simple boxes in myriad creative ways. Karen Hunter McLaughlin used rust and several postal box panels to create this monoprint. The “Flat Rate Box” exhibition runs through Friday, January 5, 2018.

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Work by Veronica Aponte at Step Gallery.

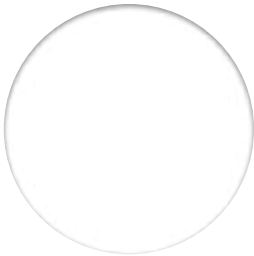
**Veronica Aponte/Photo by Lynn Trimble**

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### *Guaicaipuro's Obelisk/Pendulum*

For her ASU Master of Fine Arts thesis exhibition at **Step Gallery**, intermedia artist Veronica Aponte explored the historical and cultural landscape of her native Venezuela. “Caracas, Tierra de Nadie” (or “Caracas, No One’s Land”) included the form of a monument, turned upside down and suspended from a chain, prompting reflection on the turbulent societal shifts wrought by inside and outside forces.



**Lynn Trimble** is an award-winning freelance writer and photographer specializing in arts and culture, including visual and performing arts

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**Jerry Seinfeld**

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Oh yes, Valentina is back in Phoenix.

Courtesy of King's Queens Entertainment

# The Best Things to Do in Metro Phoenix This Week

**LINDSAY ROBERTS, AMY YOUNG, LAURA LATZKO, JULIE PETERSON, LYNN TRIMBLE, JASON KEIL, ROB KROEHLER, ASHLEY NAFTULE | DECEMBER 28, 2017 | 6:00AM**

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Ready for 2018? We are. What

attending the 2018 Planner Ball, showing off all the trivia from this year that's still kicking around in your brain, or getting geeky at The Grid? For more things to do, visit [Phoenix New Times' calendar](#).

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### Arizona Drag Stars

The Arizona Drag Stars regularly strut their stuff across the stage of Crescent Ballroom. Whether it's a sassy stand-up act or a sultry vocal number, this crew – including Neveah McKenzie, Olivia Gardens, and Luna St. James – wows crowds. They also slay with fierce fashions, and hair and makeup combos that are so on point, it hurts.

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This holiday edition of the show features special guest star Valentina. Fans of *RuPaul's Drag Race* know her from season 9, where she was named Miss Congeniality, before getting eliminated in the ninth episode. Expect her to deliver a spicy performance. After all, she chose her stage name from the label on a bottle of hot sauce.

The night heats up at 8 p.m. on Thursday, December 28, at Crescent Ballroom, 308 North Second Avenue. Tickets are \$20 to

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Call 602-716-2222 or visit the [Crescent Ballroom website](#). *Amy Young*

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- **A 21-Year-Old's Guide to Partying in Downtown Phoenix**
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Dress as your favorite *Star Wars* character for the 21+ Science With a Twist: *Trek*, *Wars*, and *Who* at the Arizona Science Center.

**Benjamin Leatherman**

## Extreme Geek Out with *Trek*, *Wars*, and *Who*

If you like *Star Trek*, *Doctor Who*, *Star Wars*, or all of the above, you can let your inner geek loose during the holidays as part of the Arizona Science Center's Extreme Geek Out with *Trek*, *Wars*, and *Who* event on Thursday, December 28.

The event will celebrate the pop culture touchstones with *Star*

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drone activity, laser tag, a Death Star explosion, and a limited-seating viewing of *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. The event takes place at 600 East Washington Street. Admission is \$18 for adults, \$13 for children, and free for those 2 and younger. For more information, call 602-716-2000 or go to the [Arizona Science Center website](#). *Laura Latzko*

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Detail of Saskia Jorda's installation for PhxArt Project at CityScape.

Saskia Jorda

### PhxArt Project: CityScape

You know that famous line from *Field of Dreams*, “If you build it, he will come”? We think that’s what the folks at Phoenix Art Museum had in mind when they created PhxArt Project: CityScape, but for art nerds instead of Shoeless Joe Jackson.

The museum has taken over retail space at CityScape and filled it with an art installation and pop-up shop. Performances are held there, too.

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Thursday, December 28. It's free to visit and remains open through Sunday, January 7. For more information, visit the [Facebook event page](#). *Lindsay Roberts*

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Look at them, they're not Sandra Dee: Fans have fun at Sing-a-Long-a *Grease*.

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts

### Sing-a-Long-a *Grease*

From the people who brought you the wildly popular Sing-a-Long-a *Sound of Music* comes Sing-a-Long-a *Grease*, with fewer nuns and Von Trapps. *Grease* originated in Chicago as a much filthier musical, but what the 1978 movie version lost in grit and sleaze is made up for in goofy fun by those Sing-a-Long-a folks, who provide subtitles along with prizes, props, and an audience-wide costume contest. It's an international phenomenon!

Your host will guide you in prop use and conduct a vocal warmup

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It's not one of those parties where four chorus boys burst into an unrequested 40-minute medley.

Round up your gang and become hopelessly devoted at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, December 28, at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, 7380 East Second Street. Screenings continue through Saturday, December 30.

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Admission is \$17. Visit the [Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts website](#) or call 480-499-8587. *Julie Peterson*

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It's story time.

Sara Weber

## Untidy Secrets Storytelling

We've all done shit that we feel bad about. In plenty of cases, we've realized the errors of our ways and tried to remedy it with an apology. Then there's the stuff we know we should feel bad about, but aren't remorseful over in the least. At the Friday, December 29, installment of Untidy Secrets Storytelling – a

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...and recommending others. A group of readers including Jason Simons, Ashley Naftule, Jessie Balli, Aaron Valdivia, Maya Tatum, and Courtney Wielgus will reveal personal tales that fit into that latter category.

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Hear what they're unapologetic about from 8 to 10 p.m. at Ash Avenue Comics, 806 South Ash Avenue, in Tempe. Admission is free. Chairs are limited; feel free to bring your own. Visit the [Facebook event page](#). *Amy Young*



And your host, of course, Joel McHale. **Cliff Lipson/CBS**

## Joel McHale

*The Soup* is gone, and *Community* was canceled, but Joel McHale remains as busy as ever. When he's not guest-starring on various television shows, the actor and comedian is gearing up for his

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conspiracy theories on the upcoming season of *The X-Files*.

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Last year, McHale made his first foray into publishing with his self-help memoir *Thanks For The Money*, written with the trademark snarky tone that made him such a draw on the stand-up circuit.

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Phoenix somehow made McHale's nice list this year, as he is closing out the last three nights of 2017 with a series of shows downtown at Stand Up Live.

The laughter begins at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, December 29, at 50 West Jefferson Street. Tickets are \$35. For more information, visit the [Stand Up Live website](#). *Jason Keil*

*“Ravage 2099 Redux”*

Imagine a world obsessed with sterility, where so-called polluters could be put to death. That's the premise of a Marvel Comics series called *Ravage 2099*, created by writer Stan Lee and artist Paul Ryan. The 33-issue series launched in 1992. Now, 25 years later, it's inspired an art exhibition called *“Ravage 2099 Redux.”*

See the free exhibition at The Hive art gallery, 2222 North 16th Street,

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29. The show features work by eight artists who've collaborated to reimagine, rewrite, and redraw all 24 pages of *Ravage 2099*, #1. The pages will be displayed sequentially, so gallerygoers can experience the first account of *Ravage 2099*'s Orwellian world.

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Participating artists are Brad Dwyer, Reset Survivor, Damon Begay, Denny Riccelli, Eric Mengel, Robin Holley, Adam Yeater, and Christopher Ness. The exhibition continues through Sunday, January 14. Visit the [Hive website](#).

*Lynn Trimble*



News junkies welcome.

Courtesy of Valley Bar

### Year in Review Trivia 2017

Revisiting the last 12 months might not be good for your mental state, but it could lead to fun and prizes. You and up to five of your news junkie friends can battle it out during Year in Review Trivia 2017

at Valley Bar. Teams will be asked

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news, sports, and pop culture during the game night, which is also a benefit for Central Arizona Shelter Services (C.A.S.S.). The two groups with the most points will be awarded prizes, and so will the team that raises the most money for C.A.S.S.

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Find the answers at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, December 29, at 130 North Central Avenue. Tickets are \$35. For more information, visit the [Valley Bar website](#). *Jason Keil*

### **Fiesta Bowl Parade**

As if traffic on Central Avenue weren't slow enough, once a year the city of Phoenix allows the Fiesta Bowl Parade down the pivotal thoroughfare that separates the streets from the avenues. Were it not for the Fiesta Bowl, a boon for the Valley's economy that takes place during the holidays, the parade might just be a nuisance. But doldrums be damned, the annual event delights onlookers who relish the celebration. Maybe they're onto something.

The Fiesta Bowl Parade rolls through central Phoenix on Saturday, December 30, beginning

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480-350-0911 for details. *Rob Kroehler*

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It's all in a day's rumba for these members of Zoppé — an Italian Family Circus.

Courtesy of Chandler Center for the Arts

### Zoppé an Italian Family Circus

Wild animals perform in fewer circuses nowadays, and we, along with the animals, approve of that development. Zoppé an Italian Family Circus, a mainstay of Valley holidays, employs domestic horses and dogs, in case that matters to you, but mostly spectacular human beings from around the world, a true family whose ages range from 7 to “ahem.”

Join Zoppé in celebration of its 175th anniversary through Sunday, January 7, 2018, at 250 North Arizona Avenue in Chandler. (Look for the enormous tent on the Chandler Center for the Arts campus.) Saturday, December 30's showtimes are 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets

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Center for the Arts website at 480-

782-2680. There's also a circus camp on-site next week for kids ages 8 to 13 – check the website.

*Julie Peterson*

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DJ Tristan Isuelt will be there.

**Batwings Photography**

## **Haxan v Warlock, A Doomed**

### **Disco-tech**

The word “disco” typically conjures images of shimmery '70s fashion and jerky, embarrassing dance moves.

If that sounds terrible to you, don't worry, you won't find any of that at the Haxan v Warlock, A Doomed Disco-tech dance party. This event will bring the glorious gloom.

From the tunes to the vibe, you can feed your goth-y soul. The party will combine Haxan, a local dance night, with Warlock, a similar event that happens in Los Angeles.

Which means that California DJ Xian Vox will lay down the dark wave sounds alongside Phoenix DJ

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raise the dead” for this shadowy soiree that starts at 9 p.m. on Saturday, December 30, at The Rebel Lounge, 2303 East Indian School Road. Admission is \$5. Call 602-296-7013 or visit the [Rebel Lounge website](#). *Amy Young*

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Debra Berman-Montano

### “Broken”

“Broken” is an evening filled with art, poetry, and performance curated by Helen Hestenes and dedicated to her sister, Karen, an Arizona artist who passed away in 1997. The Room of White Columns inside The Icehouse will feature

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and other media. The Cathedral Room will feature “Sarcophagus,” a sculpture by Helen Hestenes presented in conjunction with performance artist Mariana Riley.

Joining the event is Butoh Sonics, which was founded by sonic sculptor HexRAY and ritualist Eric Hodgins in 2015. The group, which includes rampaNT and Parker Westonm, explores the range of human sensations through experimental noise and body movement.

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“Broken” begins at 7 p.m. on Saturday, December 30, at 429 West Jackson Street. Admission is \$40 and benefits The Glass Eye, a nonprofit campaign dedicated to suicide awareness.

For more information, visit the [Ice House website](#). *Jason Keil*

### **Glow in the Park + Full Moon Drum Circle**

Grab your glow sticks and go. That’s the simple mantra of Shakti Drummers, who will gather with community members on Sunday, December 31, for Glow in the Park + Full Moon Drum Circle. It’s an excuse to drum your little heart out, meet some new people, get a

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unconventional way.

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The free gathering happens from 5:15 to 8 p.m. at the Tewa Ramada at North Mountain Park, 10608 North Seventh Street. Expect music, games, and spontaneous dance under the glow of the early evening desert sky. You can bring your own instruments and glow sticks, or borrow what you need when you get there. No pets, please. Visit the [Facebook event page](#). *Lynn Trimble*

AA



Don't forget the flannels.

**Melissa Fossum**

## 2018 Flannel Ball

Sure, you could waste a ton of cash to fly to New York City to see the ball drop in the super-crowded Times Square for New Year's Eve. Or, you could go to the Roosevelt Row equivalent, the 2018 Flannel Ball.

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Like any good kickback, the celebration will have live music by

well as art, food trucks, beer, and, of course, flannels.

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Party on from 9 p.m. until 2 a.m. on Sunday, December 31. Tickets are \$15 at [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com) or \$25 the day of the event. *Lindsay Roberts*

### The Grid's Nerdy New Year

Throw your Power Gloves in the air like you just don't care, because the fine folks at The Grid: Games and Growlers in Mesa are putting on an 8-bit bacchanal for New Year's. At The Grid's Nerdy New Year, titans of video game music and nerd culture will rock the crowd and show 2017 the door.

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Instrumental heroes The Minibosses will shred epic game music covers, and nerdcore rapper Mega Ran will spit rhymes and drop beats as big as the Times Square New Year's ball. Local weirdo Kawaii Robot Shark will also be there to help usher us into 2018 with some additional acts that have yet to be announced.

The festivities kick off at 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 31. Tickets are \$10 at the door for this 21-and-over show. There will be a free champagne toast at midnight; all other beverages will be available

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621-8088. *Ashley Nafutle*

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Mural painting to help activate downtown Mesa.

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Mesa Arts Center

### Self-guided Art Tour

Calories? Hate 'em. Holiday stress?

Totally sucks. You can walk it all off, starting on New Year's Day.

Need ideas on where to begin? Try downtown Mesa, where streets are dotted with sculptures and murals that make for a relaxing self-guided art tour. Some of the more whimsical sculptures depict a giant stiletto and bright pink chair. Others reveal bygone days of agriculture and other pursuits.

You'll find about three dozen sculptures from Mesa to Country Club drives, and between First Street and First Avenue. Look for murals by several artists, including Lauren Lee and Jesse Perry, while you're there. And check out public art along the light rail, too. There's an online map to help you hit the

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St. Basil's Cathedral is one of 75 displays at Lights of the World.

Courtesy of Arizona State Fairgrounds

AA

## Lights of the World

Some people go to Disneyland constantly. If they don't see the Main Street Electrical Parade a couple of times a year, the moping commences. So we take 'em to the Arizona State Fairgrounds for Lights of the World, a touring installation that's nearly unfathomable in its size, creativity, and technological pizzazz. Imagine It's a Small World threw up on Fremont Street, in a good way.

Attractions with separate admission include a carnival and stunning Chinese acrobatics. Visit from 5 to 10 p.m. on Monday, January 1, at 1826 West McDowell Road. Monday admission's offered at \$9.69 through a radio station promo – the password's on the order page at the [Lights of the World website](#). Regular admission

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Tuesday, January 2. Call 602-252-

6771 for info. *Julie Peterson*

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Always fun with the Suns.

Jacob Tyler Dunn

### Phoenix Suns v. Atlanta Hawks

When the Phoenix Suns' leading scorer collapsed in pain during a December 5 game at the Toronto Raptors' Air Canada Centre, a panicked gasp was heard across the Valley. Luckily, 21-year-old Devin Booker's injury proved milder than it had appeared, and there were assurances that the budding all-star would return in short order.

The Suns are still a work in progress, to put it politely, but at least with Booker back in the lineup, they have a dynamic offensive weapon at the ready. That's more than can be said for the ailing Atlanta Hawks, who will visit Talking Stick Resort Arena, 201 East Jefferson Street, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 2. Tickets are

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*Rob Kroehler*

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## “Tempe Xhibition: Celebrating Ten Years”

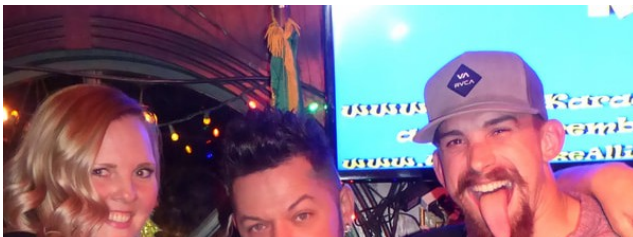
It’s been 10 years since the debut of Tempe Center for the Arts, a staple of the Valley performing arts scene. The city is celebrating with a free art show featuring work by more than a dozen emerging and established Tempe-based artists, including Kristin Bauer, Lena Klett, Melissa Martinez, Jacob Meders, and John Randall Nelson.

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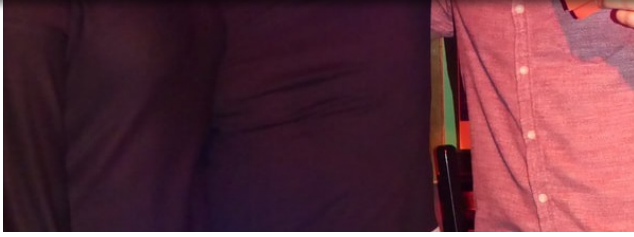
Highlights include a pair of Emmet Potter’s shiny, powder-coated Vietnam-era bombs suspended from the ceiling. Also keep an eye out for Emily Ritter’s books, each made with a month’s worth of recycled materials.

Give “Tempe Xhibition: celebrating ten years” a good look between 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, January 2. The show is only on view at The Gallery at TCA, 700 West Rio Salado Parkway, through January 6. Visit the [city of Tempe website](#).

*Lynn Trimble*



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Who will win?

Tiffany Brown

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## Country Idol

Think you have what it takes to win Country Idol? The local singing competition is on the hunt for

top performers at preliminary events around the Valley, including one at Pat O's Bunkhouse Saloon.

Don't let the name of the event fool you. Singing a country song is not required to win over the judges. Contestants will be judged on showmanship and vocal ability. Winners in the preliminary round will receive a \$25 and \$15 bar tab for first and second place, respectively, and the chance to compete in the finals at the 33rd Annual Gay Rodeo, which runs from February 16 through 18.

It's pitchy at 9 p.m. on Wednesday, January 3, at 4428 Seventh Avenue. Admission is free. For more information, visit the [Arizona](#)

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