



Arizona Museum for Youth

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News Release

The Dead Celebrate, Art Gets Recycled, and Sculptures Glow in the Dark: 3 Reasons Children of All Ages Are Flocking to the Arizona Museum for Youth.

Mesa, AZ – July 18, 2008. The Arizona Museum for Youth is rounding out the year with three fantastic exhibits for the entire family to enjoy: ***Día de los Muertos*** (*Day of the Dead*), ***Full Circle: Recycled into Art***, and ***Way to Glow! Scott McNeill***.

To many, ***Día de los Muertos*** may seem disrespectful and even a bit scary. However, sugar skulls, toy skeletons, fireworks, and terrific food are vibrant parts of this heartfelt ritual of honoring the dead. The festival involves all members of the family, including children. It's celebrated in Mexico and certain parts of the United States, including Mesa. The museum's exhibition brings this Mexican-Aztec holiday to life by featuring the artwork of a select number of Arizona artists who explore and celebrate the tradition of honoring our ancestors, Aug. 23 – Nov. 30, 2008.

Next, one person's trash is another's personal treasure, according to the exhibit ***Full Circle: Recycled into Art***. Here, artists engage their craft by using discarded items and transform them into objects that have beauty and meaning. Through interactive programs and workshops, kids playfully transform seemingly useless junk into expressions of hope and fun for a sustainable future. The museum is equally pleased to collaborate with the City of Mesa's Solid Waste Department where recycling is *No Monkey Business!* This exhibit runs from Oct. 3 – Feb. 8, 2009.

Wow— ***Way to Glow! Scott McNeill***. . . artwork that glows in the dark. That's exactly what artist Scott McNeill creates by casting dazzling bas-relief sculptures using materials that have really unusual color properties. Children become mesmerized as

they immerse themselves in a world of illumination and color. His astonishing artwork contains a light-sensitive material that absorbs ultraviolet light, allowing each piece to glow with rich brilliant colors. This spectacular exhibit debuts on Oct. 3, but be sure to visit by Feb. 8, 2009 because, after that, it's "lights out!"

The Arizona Museum for Youth (AMY) is a fine arts museum for children and families and serves as a terrific place to introduce your family to life-changing art. The museum hosts 6 world-class exhibitions, annually, and also features ArtVille, a special art-town for kids under 4 years of age. As part of the exhibitions, a dynamic array of art classes, fun workshops, and family programs are available to teach art principles and techniques. Located at 35 N. Robson in downtown Mesa, AMY is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Please visit www.arizonamuseumforyouth.com or call 480.644.2467 for current information.

"Inspiring children of all ages to view the world differently through art, creativity and imagination."

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