



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**First Friday artist Michelle McMahan shows her passion for miniscule elements of the natural world in the FAC's Deco Lounge gallery show**

*Colorado Springs (Sept. 25, 2017)* – The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College (FAC) is excited to introduce works by Michelle McMahan on view and available for sale Oct. 6 through Nov. 30, 2017 with special First Friday Art Parties Oct. 6 and Nov. 3, from 5 – 7:30 p.m.

**Michelle McMahan (Colorado Springs, CO)**

Michelle McMahan grew up in two cultures – Brazil and the U.S. The mixture of the two creates in her a third culture. Her cross-cultural vision and sensitivity generates artistic expressions that are unique and yet universally appealing.

Michelle's artistic interests emerged early in life. Her parents filled every home they had with great art and music. She studied dentistry in Brazil and then worked as a dentist in the U.S. But throughout her life, art and beauty have been the air she breathes. The meticulous style of her work reflects a passion for miniscule elements of the natural world. Most people overlook these details, but Michelle brings them to life.

Her work with reclaimed wood and metals developed first in Brazil. There she found amazing beauty in the abandoned Peroba wood that had been used in the 1930s to build homes for coffee growers in northern Paraná, a state in southern Brazil. Today she is also incorporating exotic woods from around the world, which add an amazing array of colors and textures to her abstract work. Restoring beauty and design to wood once left to rot is an expression of her ability to see beauty and value in every person.

Her work has been displayed in galleries, homes, and architect's offices in Colorado and Brazil. In 2014, her wood assemblage titled *Paradox* won the "Best of Show" award in The Abstract Show at Cottonwood Center for the Arts (Colorado Springs). Her work, including handmade furniture, has appeared in nationally distributed Brazilian design magazines and books. Michelle's work was first displayed at the Architecture and Engineering Club of Londrina, Paraná in 2010.

**First Friday Art Parties**

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**When:** Oct. 6 & Nov 3, 5 – 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Deco Lounge at the Fine Arts Center; 30 W. Dale St.

**Admission:** FREE and open to the public

**Something else:** The Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region (COPPeR) will provide a free shuttle bus service that makes stops at key Art Walk destinations and several area hotels. More info at <http://www.peakradar.com/shuttle-schedule/>

**Even more:** October is Arts Month! Each October, Colorado's Pikes Peak region celebrates Arts Month to elevate the visibility and value of arts and culture in our community. The goal is to engage the community and encourage every individual to have at least one new cultural experience with friends and family this October. Check-out a full listing of FAC Arts Month events at <https://www.csfineartscenter.org/arts-month/>

### **Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College**

The story of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College (FAC) begins with the founding of the Broadmoor Art Academy by Julie and Spencer Penrose in 1919. During the Great Depression, three dedicated philanthropists – Julie Penrose, Alice Bemis Taylor, and Elizabeth Sage Hare – envisioned expanding the Broadmoor Art Academy into an entire arts district under one roof. The FAC changed its name, built a grand building, and opened as the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center in 1936. In August 2016, the FAC announced an historic alliance with Colorado College and on July 1, 2017, became the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College. The FAC is deeply rooted in the legacy of its founders, who possessed bold visions, a deep passion for the arts, and dedication to the Colorado Springs community. The FAC honors this legacy and spirit today by providing innovative, educational, and multidisciplinary arts experiences designed to elevate the individual spirit and inspire community vitality, building on its history as a unique cultural pillar of the Pikes Peak region. For more information, visit [www.coloradocollege.edu/fac](http://www.coloradocollege.edu/fac)

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