



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***El Mac: Aerosol Exalted* it's edgy, it's different and it's beautiful**

COLORADO SPRINGS (Sept 1, 2015) — The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center (FAC) is pushing the boundaries with its new exhibition *El Mac: Aerosol Exalted*. The FAC will kick off the exhibition opening on Saturday, October 3rd from 12p-6p with JAM FAC, a street art festival celebrating urban artistic expression. This event will feature live music, breakdancing and graffiti demos from artists El Mac and Fuse.

El Mac, born Miles MacGregor, is an internationally renowned graffiti artist whose gorgeous large-scale works blur the lines between fine art and graffiti. Graffiti art is a natural progression for the FAC, following in the artistic traditions of mural art that extends back to our inception as an institution. Mac began painting with acrylics and painting graffiti in the mid '90s, when his primary focus became the life-like rendering of human faces and figures.

Mac has since worked consistently toward developing his unique rendering style, which utilizes repeating contour lines reminiscent of ripples, turning patterns and indigenous North American art. He has been commissioned to paint murals across the U.S., as well as in Mexico, Denmark, Sweden, Canada, South Korea, Belgium, Italy, The Netherlands, Puerto Rico, Spain, France, Singapore, Germany, Ireland, the U.K., Vietnam and Cuba. Some of his murals have become local landmarks. Mac continues to balance his love of painting large-scale public artworks around the world with his meticulous and time-consuming creation of indoor works. He aims to uplift and inspire through his careful, perfectionist renderings of both the sublime and the humble.

Colorado local artist Fuse, born Larry Masters, will also be featured in this exhibition. Fuse's style is a more classic interpretation of graffiti art, termed "wild style" or text based. Like Mac, Fuse is also from Los Angeles and began spray painting in 1987. He was inspired by the artwork on trains and had a desire to turn the typically negative reaction associated with graffiti art into a positive one. After years of sketching, tagging and bombing (a quick hit on several surfaces in an area) he made a name for himself and eventually helped form the most influential graffiti crew in the world, AWR/MSK. He is part of The Seventh Letter Art Crew and recently was chosen along with 60 other urban artists to participate in the first-ever Seventh Letter Gallery Art Opening in Los Angeles as a representation of top graffiti artists in the nation. Fuse has been a Colorado resident for more than 20 years and founded an interior design company, The Home Masters, where he is able to incorporate custom graffiti and other urban nuances into his work.

"It's edgy, it's controversial, it's different, and it's not contained. That's what makes it beautiful," said Fuse about the upcoming exhibition.

El Mac: Aerosol Exalted

When: October 3, 2015 – January 10, 2016

Where: Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St.

Tickets: FAC Members and children 12 and under are free, Non-members \$12

Something else: JAM FAC will open the exhibition on Saturday, October 3rd from 12p-6p. The event will include Graffiti demos in the FAC courtyard by El Mac and Fuse, a B-Boy Battle - including team competition, demos by breakdancing team, Pikes Peak Tricker, music by DJ Gravity, DJ Prominent, and DJ Lazy Eyez, performances by MC Stoney Bertz, Bullhead*ded, and The ReMINDers, food truck service by Pig Latin and Heavenly Deserts, cash bar.

El Mac

Born in Los Angeles in 1980 to an engineer and an artist, Mac has been creating and studying art independently since childhood. He was inspired at a young age by classic European painters such as Caravaggio, and Vermeer and Art Nouveau symbolists such as Klimt and Mucha. This was mixed with the more contemporary influences of graffiti and photorealism, as well as the Chicano & Mexican culture he grew up around. Mac's art was featured on the cover of *Juxtapoz* magazine in 2009 and again in 2012, as well as the cover of *LA Weekly* for a feature on the Seventh Letter collective. In the last few years he has had successful solo exhibitions at Fifty24SF Gallery in San Francisco (2009), and Joshua Liner Gallery in NYC (2010). In 2010 he also painted a large mural on the Museum of Contemporary Art (MARCO) in Monterrey, Mexico as part of the Seres Queridos project. In 2012 he painted a large mural in Havana, Cuba for the 11th Havana Biennial sponsored by the Cisneros-Fontanals Art Foundation.

Fine Arts Center

The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, established in 1936, is a privately funded, non-profit art museum, performing arts theatre and arts education center. Built on the foundation of the prestigious Broadmoor Art Academy, the FAC carries the legacy of Colorado's arts and cultural heritage. One of 16 charter members of the American Association of Museums, the FAC offers the best in the world of visual arts via its permanent collection and travelling exhibitions, performing arts through the FAC Theatre Company, and arts education with the Bemis School of Art. The FAC building is considered an architectural landmark in the Rocky Mountain region, designed by John Gaw Meem, and is listed on the National Register for Historical Places. For information, visit csfineartscenter.org.

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