

This exhibition is inspired by and dedicated to all those who take chances, explore new possibilities, overcome obstacles and continue to dream big. The artists selected for this exhibition are all well acquainted with the idea that confidence and creativity can lead to extraordinary results. Each set of artworks tell endearing stories about young girls who face adversity and come out winning because they believed in themselves.

I CAN!

May 3- Aug 29, 2019
Connections Café at Tempe Public Library



Jo Ann Briseño, Tempe

Briseño earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from Arizona State University. In recent years, she's merged her passion for art making with her love and admiration for her daughter Maya, who was born with Down syndrome. The napkin drawings started informally as a little reminder she could place into Maya's lunch box to remind her that she was thinking about her, even when she was at school. Each napkin drawing showcases Maya's many accomplishments, milestones and interests. Over time, they've gathered a collection of more than 700 drawings that celebrate and encourage the "I Can" attitude of this amazing girl. As an artist, Briseño hopes to create "art which brings people together and creates connections regardless of differences and abilities." As a Mom, she wishes to communicate and reinforce the idea that "all children regardless of ability, can lead rich and fulfilling lives if given the opportunity."

jbriseno.com

Audrey JohnsonMcCurdy, Avondale

Like the character, Esa~Bella, JohnsonMcCurdy is woman of many talents. She is an artist, author, painter and photographer. She was born and raised in San Fernando, CA. Early in her life, while in college, she started a photography career which included journalistic photography and art photography. After graduation she immersed herself in the L.A. music industry as a concert photographer, capturing moments by some famous musicians such as M.C. Hammer, Bon Jovi, Berry White, Aerosmith and Michael Jackson. Today she lives and works in Arizona as an author focusing on her "Esa~Bella" book series which features a little girl's adventures around the world. Most recently, JohnsonMcCurdy received a nice endorsement from the Duchess of Sussex, England, Megan Markle, to whom the author had gifted her latest Esa~Bella book.

ajohnsonmccurdy.com/



Henry Bosak, Avondale

Bosak has always known that art would be part of his life. He was born in Genoa, NE and developed a love for art early on. He says he was encouraged to create by the people surrounding him including his parents, his high school art teacher and a neighbor who was an artist that lived down the street from his family home. Bosak has fond memories of watching the artist in fascination while he sculpted and painted. Today, he works as a commercial graphic designer, book illustrator and fine artist. One of his recent projects was his collaboration with JohnsonMcCurdy on her book "Ohhh, I Can Be That with Esa~Bella." In addition to his illustrative work Bosak is an accomplished painter and has shown his work nationally at Salmagundi Club in New York, Winfield Gallery in Carmel-By-the-Sea, CA and Sugarman-Peter Gallery in Santa Fe.

henrybosak.com