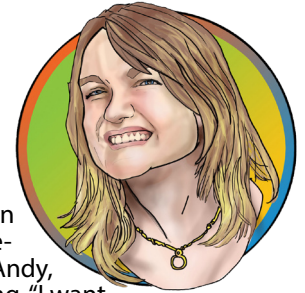


# Cultivating community through accessible arts experiences for all.



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## How this (Magical) Missoula Monster Project Began

One of the most magical times of the year at the ZACC has arrived! The Missoula Monster Project started in 2014 when Asa Smetanka, then age 9, came into my office and enthusiastically showed me his spiral notebook full of sketches of hundreds of monsters along with their special attributes and features. Asa's dad, Andy, had a studio at the ZACC at the time so Asa hung around a lot and was very familiar with our programming. "I want to do an art show in the ZACC gallery and show my monsters," he proclaimed! And so we talked about how he might do that. Asa decided he would invite his adult artist friends to do their own renditions of his monsters and we scheduled a gallery show called "Facts About Made Up Monsters" in the ZACC Gallery for the First Friday in October. This show featured one child artist, Asa, and 14 adult artists including myself, Patricia, many Smetankas, Courtney Blazon, Theo Ellsworth, Josh Quick, Cindy Laundrie Marshall, and others.

The opening was delightful. The adult artists all agreed that it was one of the most enjoyable art calls they had ever submitted to, and Asa beamed as he walked around the gallery wearing a suit, giving speeches, and sipping apple juice out of a champagne glass. And we noticed a large population of people circulating our gallery and showing great interest in the art that we had never really seen much of at First Friday openings before – kids! *Wouldn't it be great if we could do this every year, we all agreed, and tried to envision how.*

Around the same time the Missoula Community Arts Team (that I was a member of) launched SPARK! – which was and continues to be an initiative to bring more art into Missoula County Public Schools. Our team met with the new SPARK! Director, Chris Neely, and the MCPS Fine Arts Director, John Combs, and pitched to them the idea of every kindergartner in Missoula drawing a monster and matching them with an adult artist ... And that is when I learned that there were over 700 kindergartners in Missoula. Due to space constraints and practicality, we decided to do three schools per year, rotating each year.

Our first Missoula Monster Project in 2015 featured 206 kindergartners from Lewis and Clark, Russell, and Cold Springs schools. Now in year seven, and roughly 3,000 monsters later, a few things have changed but the heart of this project remains the same. In addition to being an incredible show that brings joy to all people, young and old, the Monster Project has become one of our biggest fundraisers of the year. All monster sales go to our art education programs for Missoula's youth. SPARK! is no longer directly involved but we are so grateful for the years working with them, and we continue our incredible partnership with the MCPS Fine Arts Department. We have gotten pretty good at managing all of the little beasts, but Monster Project week is still a big week at the ZACC. We spend many hours organizing, hanging, rescuing, and delighting in each and every monster. We are exhausted and elated and still enamored by this project, and we can't wait to share it with you at the opening tomorrow and all month long at the ZACC.

XO,  
Kia

Scan this QR code to browse and purchase monsters!



## HAPPENING THIS MONTH



Showing through October in the Main Gallery  
Purchase any monster ONLINE – scan the QR code!

At Western Cider on October 13 at 5:30 PM  
Free art fun for all, in partnership with Muse Comics

## The Show Room

### Jazz Night w/ Patti Nolan

**Thursday, October 7 / Doors at 7 / 7:30 PM / \$10**

Join us at the Show Room at the ZACC for a spirited night of jazz classics and standards performed by Patti Nolan & the Jim Driscoll Trio, with Patti on vocals, Jim on piano, Pete Hand on bass, and Rich Brinkman on drums.

### Gingers On Ice

**Saturday, October 9 / Doors at 7 / 7:30 PM / \$15 (\$10 for Students)**

Gingers On Ice is a live blend of sketch, improv, and stand-up comedy which features two redheaded comedians, Jacob Godbey and Alex Tait, winners of Missoula's Best Comedians 2018. After a lengthy live performance hiatus, the duo returns to Missoula in October with an all-newshow full of witty banter, bantery wit, and British shock jock Whit Banter.

### Aaron Woodall Stand Up Comedy

**W/ Sarah Aswell, Jordan Demander, and Thomas Blake**

**Sunday, October 10 / Doors at 7 / 7:30 PM / \$15**

From the Mormon and the Meth-Head podcast and one of Conan O'Brien's Comics to Watch, Aaron Woodall is a nice young man coming to grips with a dirty, cynical world. As he finds out that love isn't real, God is dead, and beer doesn't even taste very good, Aaron effervescently shares his disillusionments with a sense of wide-eyed excitement.

### Time for a Quickie – 5 Quick Plays

**Thursday, Friday, Saturday / October 14, 15, 16 / Doors at 7 / 7:30 PM / \$15 (\$10 for Students)**

Time For a Quickie! features 5 short plays by local Missoula playwrights Rita Barkey, Cathy Capps, Shaun Gant, and Jay Kettering. They've teamed up with director Nathan Adkins once more to shape an evening of original theatre in the ZACC Show Room. The cast includes local favorites Fiona Harris, Maisie Gospodarek, Carrie Collier, Jasmine Sherman, Craig Menteer, and Jim Thomas.

### EmpowerMT presents Verbatim:

#### Celebrating Resilience

**Sunday, October 17 / Show at 6 PM / Free & Open to All**  
EmpowerMT is excited to host renowned playwright, director, and lecturer Gregory Hinton as he collaborates with the Social Justice Theater at the University of Montana to present a writing workshop and performance.

### Haunted Prom

**Friday, October 22 / Doors at 7 / 7:30 PM / \$10**

Celebrate the release of their new album "Heavy Pours" with your It's PROM! (But poltergeisty and possessed). Missoula's favorite goth DJs will be spinning spooky tunes. We've got live music from local bands Spirit Hotel, chilling indie rock that will haunt your heart, and The Cleaning Crew, the scary-good hip hop duo who'll bring the house down with their dynamic flow. So dress in your most your goulsh gowns, bring your best Carrie, your Jennifer, your thirstiest Count Drac and let's have a party!

### A Very Spooky, Jazzy Night

#### w/ SG Modern Jazz Project

**Saturday, October 23 / Doors at 7 / 7:30 PM / \$10**

With Troy Bashor on drums, Mike Johns (MCPS Orchestra teacher at Meadow Hill) on bass, DR Halsell on guitar, Dylan Dwyer (Shakewell) on saxophone, Jeff Stickney on trumpet, Meghan Morris (The Shivers) on vocals, and Stephane Garipey (Cirque Du Soleil musician) as band leader and on keyboards and arrangements.

### Psychedelic Jazz Rock with Cosmic Sans

**Friday, October 29 / Doors at 7 / 7:30 PM / \$10**

Cosmic Sans, is a Missoula made psychedelic jazz rock five piece. The group consists of Cole Bronson on drums, lead guitarist Seamus Jennings, ambient/rhythm guitarist William "Stos" Stoskopf, Lane Ulberg on bass, and Jake Howell on vocals. Don't miss your chance to see what these guys have been working on!

### Special Halloween Event TBA

**Saturday, October 30 / Doors at 7 / 7:30 PM / \$10**

Stay tuned to the ZACC socials this month for the announcement of our special Halloween event coming up Saturday, October 30!

## Galleries

**Shows open First Friday, October 1, 5-8 PM & exhibit through the month of October**

### Main Gallery

#### 7th Annual Missoula Monster Project

### Youth Gallery

#### 2021 Summer Camp Showcase

### Blackfoot Communications Gallery

#### Drawings from the Couch /

#### Works by Melanie Gardner

## Adult Classes

### Sensation Based Movement

**Sundays / October 10 through November 7 / 11 AM-12 PM**

Taught in the ZACC Show Room by Noelle Huser / \$75

### Color Block Printing Workshop

**Thursdays / October 14 through November 11 / 6-8 PM**

Taught in the ZACC Print Shop by Christa Carleton / \$125

### Portrait Pots

**Saturday / October 16 / 1-4 PM**

Taught in the ZACC Classroom by Dana Childs / \$65

### Felting Rocks

**Tuesday / October 26 / 6-8 PM**

Taught in the ZACC Classroom by Delaney Wascherol / \$35

## Youth Camps

### 2021-2022 After School Camps are LIVE!

**Register your child today at [zootownarts.org](http://zootownarts.org)**

The ZACC loves getting young artists involved and active in the arts at an early age. Our YAAP and AMP after school programs are awesome vehicles of creativity for kids of all ages. **This October we're excited for Dungeons & Dragons Camps, All Day Pajama Parties, Brilliant Brushes Camp, and Stop Motion Animation!**

## Special Events

### Drink & Draw Dungeons & Dragons

**Western Cider / 501 N California St / Wednesday**

**October 13 / 5:30-7:30 PM / Free & Open to All**

The ZACC is partnering with our friends at Muse Comics and Western Cider to bring you another awesome installment of Dungeons & Dragons Drink & Draw – a.k.a. D&D D&D! Folks from Muse will be on hand to discuss the art projects, and for D&D related questions and conversation.

### 2nd Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest

**Virtual Participation / Post with #missoulapumpkins2021**

Best in Show & 3 runners-up will receive ZACC certified digital ribbons, bragging rights, and their pumpkins featured on our social media. Judging happens October 29 at noon, and winners will be announced that day!

### Costume Swap (OH YEAH)

**Sunday, October 24 / 1-5 PM / Free & Open to All**

Sign-up in advance to drop off your old costume clothing donations, and come to the free swap on the day! As people peruse our market of assorted costumes and find their match, the ZACC asks everyone to consider donating what they can and/or what they think the costumes are worth.

To learn more about us visit:

[zootownarts.org](http://zootownarts.org)