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Mid-Century Perspectives: Paintings by Andy Burgess and Objects of Modern Design
Opens February 2 at Tucson Museum of Art

TUCSON, ARIZONA (January 18, 2018) – Known for precise drawings, paintings and photographs of urban landscapes developed over the last 20 years, British-born Tucson artist Andy Burgess has shifted his focus to express a fascination with modern buildings in colors inspired by the desert environment of the American Southwest.

Burgess’s work will be on display beginning February 1 at the Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block in the exhibition, *Mid-Century Perspectives: Paintings by Andy Burgess and Objects of Modern Design*. The exhibition will be on view until April 22.

“Andy Burgess brings a unique perspective and interpretation of mid-century architecture in the Southwest,” said Dr. Julie Sasse, Chief Curator, and Curator of Modern, Contemporary, and Latin American Art at the Tucson Museum of Art. “His work is saturated with vibrant color and the dramatic light of the American Southwest.”

Burgess creates his works by sketching, photographing and distilling images from direct experience and from the internet. As part of this process, he saves photographs and color swatches in folders that become archives at his disposal, re-inventing and re-imagining the compositions in myriad combinations.



Paraty House, Brazil, 2017
Oil on canvas
40 x 60 inches



Tower House II, 2017
Oil on canvas
39 x 52 inches

Originally from London, Burgess has traveled the world while living and working in Great Britain, Spain, Washington, D.C. and New York. In 2009, he made a dramatic life change, moving from London to Tucson.

One of Burgess's most important influences is American architectural photographer Julius Shulman, who was known for his iconic images of mid-century modern architecture created between the late 1940s and 1960s, including buildings designed by noted architects Frank Lloyd Wright, Raphael Soriano, Richard Neutra, Charles Eames and Pierre Koenig. In his new surroundings in Arizona, Burgess is in close proximity to a number of buildings designed by Wright.

Included in the exhibition is a selection of designed objects and furniture by Frank Lloyd Wright, Charles and Ray Eames, Harry Bertoia, Rose Cabat and others that captures the spirit and essence of the period that inspires Burgess's work.

Architects and industrial designers that dominated the mid-century modern movement created objects and furniture that reflected clean, simple designs that emphasized curves and geometric shapes. In creating the compositions for his paintings, Burgess often includes a strategically placed object or piece of furniture, providing a glimpse into the human occupancy within the depicted architectural model.

Examples of mid-century modern industrial design represented in Burgess's work include the famous Egg chair created by Arne Jacobsen or the Eames Lounge Chair as fashioned by Charles and Ray Eames. Burgess pays homage to designer and architect Kathleen Eileen Moray Gray, more commonly known as Eileen Gray, the designer of the iconic E-1027 table, with a lithograph depicting Gray's E-1027 house, an architectural marvel in collaboration with French architect, Jean Badovici.

The exhibition kicks off February 1, in conjunction with the museum's monthly program, *Free First Thursdays!* There will be a selection of mid-century cars organized by Alex Mastrangelo and furniture vignettes from AZModern, live music Jazz Pyramid Scheme, cash bar, art making, and in-gallery activities. The event is free and open to the public from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Mid-Century Perspectives: Paintings by Andy Burgess and Objects of Modern Design is presented by the Tucson Museum of Art Contemporary Art Society. Generous support of the 2017-2018 Exhibition Season is provided by the Connie Hillman Family Foundation, James J.

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Museum Directions

The Museum is located at 140 N. Main Avenue in historic downtown Tucson at the crossroads of West Alameda Street and North Main Avenue. Parking is free in the Museum's lot on West Washington Street.

Museum Hours

Tuesday through Sunday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Free First Thursday!: 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Free admission for all, make, drink, and explore.

Second SundAZE @ TMA: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Free admission for Arizona and Sonora, Mexico residents every second Sunday of the month. Art-making activities and music. Fun for all ages.

Closed Mondays.

Admission

Adults, \$12; Senior (65+), \$10; Student (with college ID), \$7; Youth (13-17), \$7; Child (12 and under), free; Veteran and active military with ID, free; Museum Member, Free.

About the Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block

The Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block's mission is *Connecting Art to Life*. The Museum was founded in 1924 in the El Presidio Historic District of downtown Tucson. It is Southern Arizona's premier presenter of fine art and art education programs.

The 74,000 square foot museum features permanent and traveling exhibitions of Modern and Contemporary, Native American, American West, Latin American, and Asian art; and offers guided tours, education programs, and cultural opportunities in a unique setting. The museum's historic block of 19th and 20th C. adobe and Mission Revival-style buildings, encompassing an entire four-acre city block, includes the highly acclaimed museum restaurant Café a la C'Art, the Museum Store, children's Creative Space, and the museum's Education Center and Research Library. For more information, please visit www.TucsonMuseumofArt.org or call (520) 624-2333. Follow the latest events on Facebook and Instagram. TMA is a private 501(c)(3) charitable arts and education organization.