

PRESS RELEASE**For Immediate Release: May 24, 2019**

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Aiseborn | Dorothy In The Poppies | Acrylic and oil pastel on watercolor board | 2019

Experience 41: OZ invites visitors to immerse themselves in the world of Oz created by storyteller L. Frank Baum. OZ will be on view June 13 through September 21, 2019 and is organized by Jeff Cason with curatorial support by Barbara Boehm and Eugenia Torre.

Experience 41: OZ is a celebration of L. Frank Baum's book "The Wonderful Wizard Of Oz", a uniquely American fairy tale that has rippled through our culture for over 120 years. Oz has inspired countless books, films, stage productions, high fashion, and pop culture making an indelible impact on people of all generations.

This Experience will feature over 80 artworks and artifacts from the original book and its inspired stories. On display will be all 40 books in the Oz series as well as original and rare framed illustrations by the Oz illustrators, W. W. Denslow, John R. Neill and more. Many of the original illustrations created for the series have been lost over time making this exhibition a rare treat for visitors of every age.

Rare artifacts from Oz will also be on display. Highlights include:

- A cover for a touring musical production of *The Wizard of Oz* (1905)
- A *Wonderful Game of Oz* board game (1921)
- First edition sheet music for *Somewhere Over The Rainbow* (1939)
- Costume illustrations and press materials from the *The Wiz* (1978)
- Replica ruby slippers from *Return to Oz* (1985)
- A piece of the yellow brick road from *Muppets Wizard of Oz* (2005)

Renowned L.A. artist and ESMoA Experience Award recipient Aiseborn is creating five magnificent murals that depict iconic locations in Oz including the poppy fields, yellow brick road, Emerald City, Munchkinland, and the witch's castle. The murals stand up to 15' high and let guests experience each part of Oz from a unique perspective, whether seeing Munchkinland through Glinda's bubble, or the poppy fields as a regal mouse.

Visitors can also immerse themselves in Oz stories and history in a specially designed library installed in the gallery. "There is so much more to discover inside the Land of Oz," says curatorial assistant Eugenia Torre.

A special preview of OZ will take place on Saturday, June 8 2019 from 5pm to 8pm. OZ will open for public view on Thursday, June 13, 2019 at 1pm. ESMoA is open Thursday from 1pm to 8pm and Friday to Saturday from 10am to 5pm. Admission is free.

Visit www.esmoa.org for additional information about upcoming OZ programs and events.