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VOL 36 ISSUE 440
AUGUST 2025
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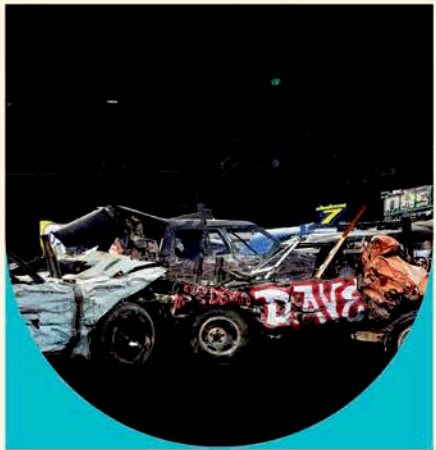
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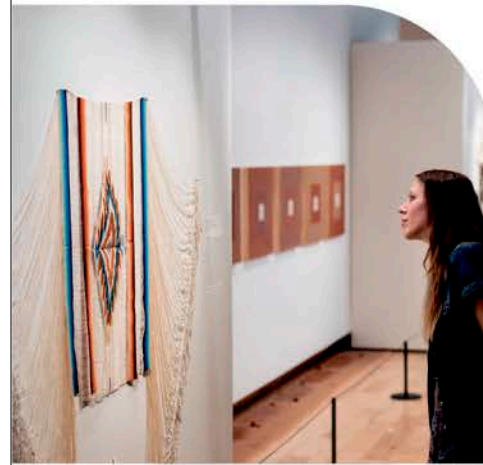
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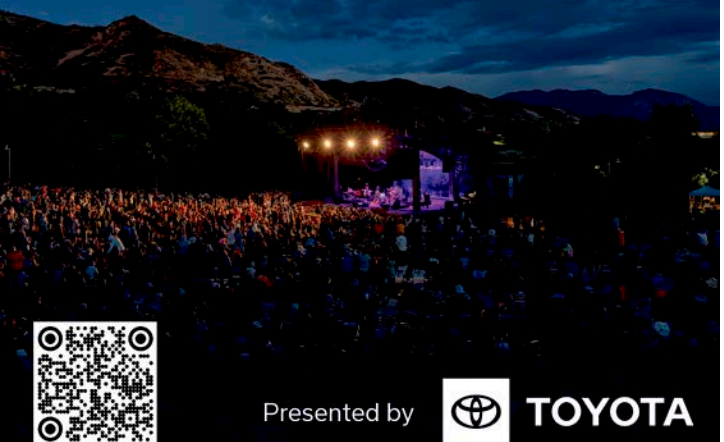
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Alegra Zuchowicz

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Alegra Zuchowicz uses her marketing expertise to forge partnerships with Utah businesses that align with *SLUG*'s mission. Her knack for connecting with people from all walks of life and her love for local music, dance and vintage fashion make her a unique asset to the magazine!



Marzia Thomas

Contributor Limelight
Senior Staff Writer

Since March 2024, Marzia Thomas has significantly contributed to the *SLUG* ecosystem. They are a passionate and prolific music reviewer, covering pop, indie, rap and punk with a voice that balances pithy observations and poetic flourishes. Read their vignette features about *DIY Fest* artisans on page 12!



17th Annual Craft Lake City DIY Festival Issue: *SLUG* previews the local artisans, vintage vendors, craft foodies, STEM exhibitors and performers to look out for at the festival! On this month's cover, mixed media artist and *DIY Fest* veteran **Shelby Pence** (@shelbyartifacts) layered linoleum block prints onto a Gelli plate textured background and topped it off with a hand-drawn font. Read all about her artistic process on page 8!

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When artist and educator Shelby Pence began making art, it wasn't with the goal of starting a business. It was simply what she loved to do. Pence has been surrounded by creative energy since she was young, exploring different mediums and taking classes throughout grade school before studying graphic design at Salt Lake Community College. She's since specialized in printmaking and creates bold, vibrant prints that she sells at local markets.

"My mom is an artist, so I had lots of supplies around the house," she says. "It was a lot of experimentation for a very long time. I made jewelry, sewed, painted, crochet[ed], I did anything that you can think of." Today, Pence primarily does linocut and Gelli plate printing. Both are processes that create layered designs using ink, stencils and transfers. She also dabbles in cyanotype, a process that uses UV-sensitive chemicals and sunlight to create images based on stencils.

"In Art 101, the first thing they teach you is the principles and elements of design. I think that having those foundations and building off of them is fun, even though they're basic." She experiments with textures, negative space and shape, balancing the elements to craft powerful compositions.

A defining feature of Pence's artwork is using recycled and accessible materials whenever possible. "You want to be conscious of your impact on the world," she says. She uses repurposed materials for her collage kits, handmade paper and bookbinding projects. "I'm a wholehearted advocate that you don't need expensive materials to create art," she says. "It's not about what you use, it's about what you make."

Pence teaches community classes and leads workshops for *Craft Lake City* and other local groups. Currently, she is Utah's only Gelli plate instructor. "I think everyone is creative," she says. "I give the instructions, but [I] give people the



Shelby Pence, aka Shelby ARTifacts, is a tenured *DIY Fest* artisan whose mixed media artwork appears on the cover of this year's *DIY Fest* issue.



HOW SHELBY PENCE MADE A CAREER IN PRINTMAKING

Photos by Brayden Salisbury

room to find their creativity through those instructions ... My favorite part is seeing every single person's unique artwork, even though we all just learned the same thing." After almost every class, Pence will leave with copies of her students' work that she is most impressed with.

After taking a yearlong hiatus from selling at markets, Pence now prioritizes the *DIY Fest* above all others. "There are so many opportunities within the market to participate in and share your artwork," she says. "I love the people. It's fun to sell and participate in something so big and fun."

This year's *DIY Fest* issue features a cover designed by Pence. While brainstorming ideas for the cover, she kept coming back to key words like artisan, maker and creative. "I was thinking about what creativity means to me and the kind of artists that we see," she says. "I wanted to represent the diversity of the different artists." Ultimately, she crafted an image that displayed the variety of mediums at the festival, using her passion for simple elements to make each one stand out.

Pence's mom, **Courtney Wood**, has had a huge impact on her journey. Wood works under the name *Arte di Vita* and designed last year's *DIY Fest* issue cover. "She is such an inspiration for me," Pence says. "Sharing [art] with her is a significant part of our relationship. We have very different looks, we have a very different audience ... but doing it mutually in the same space is so important."

Looking back, Pence marvels at how her hobby has become a career: "Every time I doubted myself, someone would reach out with an opportunity. It's a cool reminder that I'm talented and that people appreciate my work," she says. Now, with five years under her belt, she's ready to keep building her business and a life that's imaginative and fulfilling.

You can find Pence's booth at the *DIY Fest* from August 8-10, or follow her journey on Instagram at [@shelbyartifacts](https://www.instagram.com/shelbyartifacts).

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Held at the Utah State Fairpark every August, the 17th Annual Craft Lake City DIY Festival Presented By Harmons is Utah's largest local-centric arts, music, science and technology festival. Over the three-day weekend, experience the best of our state's creative culture with over 500 local artists and makers, three stages for music and dance performances, a youth entrepreneur area, a STEM building with hands-on exhibitions, dozens of food vendors and more. Kids of all ages and dogs are welcome — find more info and get tickets at craftlakecity.com!

All photos by John Barkiple

KID ROW

A lover of all things strange and peculiar, **Via Jones** (they/she) has been an artist for all 14 years of their life. The name "Moldy Apples" comes from their love of apples and fascination with mold.

Jones uses found materials in her artwork to create unique textures and patterns. "I put a lot of junk in my scrapbooks," she says. "I'll just add things like candy wrappers, fabric scraps, buttons, soda tabs ... I'm drawn to grandma florals, vintage fabrics, polka dots and whimsical things." But her signature creation is her cat masks. "I adore cats," Jones says. "I own five cats who are all very lovely."

Their masks are also inspired by the blue animated cat Giovanni

from the 1985 anime film *Night on the Galactic Railroad*, **Louis Wain's** anthropomorphized cat illustrations and **Rosina Wachtmeister's** whimsical cat paintings and sculptures. Jones starts the process with a paper mask base from a local craft store. "Then I alter the mask by adding ears or changing the eye shape," they say. "I add felt and then hand-print it; sometimes I add accessories or buttons. It all takes a lot of time, but I enjoy the process."

At the *DIY Fest*, Jones will be selling stickers, upcycled clothes, dolls and her signature cat masks. "It always brings me joy to see someone else love the things I've created as much as I do," she says. Find her booth in Kid Row on Saturday, August 9 from 12:00-4:00 p.m. — *Asha Pruitt*



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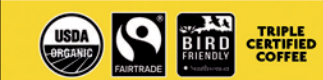
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Illustrator and ceramist **Zoe Staley** (she/they) creates hyper-realistic miniatures of skate ramps and bowls by forming them out of clay and adding streetlights, benches and poles. They complete these sickeningly adorable pocket-sized parks with hand-drawn artwork stylized to look like graffiti. You can use the ceramic as an ashtray, a jewelry and trinket holder, or to practice and master your fingerboarding.

Staley has been drawing for as long as she can remember, but I was surprised, given her technical proficiency, to learn that she has only been working with ceramics since 2023. The street art aspects of the pieces are meticulously detailed — a feature that stands out because of the added realism. Staley says they were inspired by her time spent

living in Buenos Aires, a notoriously creative city overflowing with stunning murals, paintings and graffiti. She would spend time dissecting the pieces and admiring the shadowing, color palettes and versatility of the art form, as well as its effectiveness at representing social change and acting as resistance to conformity.

Staley started skateboarding less than a year ago but has been rollerblading for 20 years, giving them lots of time to be inspired by local skate parks. They have not yet had the chance to incorporate spray paint in their artwork, but they hope to scale up to bigger pieces like clothing and canvas. Follow along with their art on Instagram at [@killingzoecko](#) and be sure to check out their precious half-pipes in person at the *DIY Fest*.

—Marzia Thomas



Blythe Harmon, the printmaker behind Wild Roots Press, brings life to paper and plushes with their natural, surrealist ink impressions. They participate in each step of the printmaking process, drawing the designs, creating and carving the stamps and embossing the pieces. They use eco-friendly materials from the earth, like cotton and silk fabrics, copper and woodblock molds and water-based inks to embody the experiences they have had in nature.

In doing so, Harmon replicates the processes that organically take place in outside environments: the cycle of life and decay, of birth and rebirth. They are deeply inspired by the way they perceive the world we've been given, which comes through in their drawings as they replicate the feel-

ing of standing in the mountains, far from any buildings. Harmon enjoys taking their border collie and blue heeler to the trails, foraging for edible mushrooms and plants and collecting intriguing wildlife and insects. Leaves, bugs and mushrooms appear often in their work, replicated with a hand-drawn, home-grown feel. Their motive is not to replicate the appearance of nature but to convey the essence of engaging with the earth.

Their muted, jewel-toned colors result in a calming and grounding effect. In addition to creating with cardstock, they offer soft sculptures of algae, brine shrimp and eared grebes ready to be held and cuddled. Visit Harmon at the *DIY Fest* and on Instagram at [@blythe.harmon](#).

—Marzia Thomas



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THRIFTJAM



ThriftJam was born five years ago when **Ellie Cram** and her partner converted an old school bus into a thrift shop. “We wanted more freedom and flexibility in how we reached our community, and converting a bus gave us that mobility,” Cram says. The two were able to do just that and made sustainable vintage fashion accessible throughout Utah. Cram says that their goal for spreading awareness around secondhand shopping and sustainable fashion is to make it more “exciting and approachable.”

The ThriftJam bus is stationed anywhere from Logan to St. George and operates from spring to fall, multiple times a week. Joining the *DIY Fest* back in 2023, ThriftJam is back this year and more excited than ever! “We’re most excited to connect

with other artisans and vendors and see all the incredible work they’re bringing to life,” Cram says.

The couple’s passion for sustainable clothing brought the two closer to vintage and upcycling, the bread and butter of eco-friendly fashion. ThriftJam’s signature heavyweight patchwork jacket is a representation of what the two love to do and their goal of combining sustainability and clothing.

“Our jackets are the heart of what we do,” Cram says. “[They are] completely one-of-a-kind — just like the people who wear them.” Sourcing textiles from recycling centers, the couple always thinks about quality and style. Follow their Instagram [@thriftjam.co](#) and find the bus at the *DIY Fest*! —*India Bown*

VINTAGE VENDORS

Breathing new life into vintage goods, **Holly Erickson**, owner of *RétroVie*, takes goods from the past to honor and make them relevant once again. As a “purveyor of past-inspired living,” Erickson believes that there is a history to these items that can live on. She describes the need to re-invent items as a “burden” or almost like an “intrinsic social responsibility.” Her work is a duty to the people to share, create and connect.

Erickson was always creative kid, as well as a firm believer in the “use your imagination” mentality. From making living spaces for her dolls to refurbishing furniture and vintage goods, fixing up old items is in her DNA. “The beautification of broken things fueled my initial desire to create; however, honoring the past

by creating for the present has become the perpetuation connecting me to this world,” Erickson shares.

In early 2021, Erickson started a project that threw her into the world of refurbishing at full force. After purchasing a dilapidated 1940s waterfall dresser, she completely transformed the piece through cleaning, stripping, painting and installing new hardware. She notes that creative liberties aren’t due to vanity, but because of existing damages that create opportunity. Erickson loves the process of refurbishing vintage goods from start to finish.

At the *DIY Fest*, Erickson will showcase a new collection called “*RétroVie ReVixons*.” Find her on Instagram at [@retrovie_slc](#)! —*India Bown*



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CHUNKY COOKIES



In a state where residents satisfy their sweet tooth with cookies, Chunky Cookies encapsulates why the treat is so comforting for many: They are made from scratch with a mom's love. **Melissa Angeles** was a full-time stay at home mom in 2021, before she decided to bring a business into her home so she could continue looking after her kids. "Everyone loves cookies," Angeles says. "Why not make stuffed cookies in different flavors?"

Angeles used to sell her cookies at farmers markets, which meant working several hours in advance to prepare around 600 cookies in a weekend and thousands per month. For the consumer, putting it down is the easy part. Deciding which of their stuffed cookies to pick is where the difficulty lies.

Red Velvet is the top performer, while others like Brownie, Cookie Butter Biscoff, Cookies n' Cream, Dulce de Leche, Nutella, Peanut Butter and the underrated Dark Chocolate Walnut are designed to have a comforting, gooey center. Each cookie is made to be enjoyable from the first bite to the last — just sweet enough to leave you yearning for another bite rather than struggling to finish due to sugar overload.

It can be difficult to stand out among a sea of local cookie businesses, but Angeles' dedication to baking each cookie with love can be tasted in every bite. She says she's inspired by similar small businesses supporting each other at *DIY Fest*, motivating her to continue growing her own business. Order online at chunkycookies.us! —Sean Rinn

CRAFT FOOD

When **Benjo Fischer** was in the Middle East yearning for a familiar New York Italian taste, he truly bottled the do-it-yourself spirit by creating five batches of his own hot sauce when he couldn't find anything reminiscent. From there, Flaming Homer's Hot Sauce was born.

The first sauce Fischer nailed was the Pineapple Habanero, which is especially great on tacos, pizza and chicken. Flaming Homer's has nailed a number of sauces since then — including the Zahava, a classic Middle Eastern spice blend which is great as a table sauce or condiment. It's a nice start for those who may be reluctant to face high heat. Fischer's favorite is the Louisiana Style, his take on a classic vinegar-style hot sauce that goes well with everything.

"Good, clean hot sauce is our whole schtick," Fischer says. He uses organic ingredients and good peppers and keeps preservatives, gums, sugar and emulsifiers out — just salt, peppers, vinegar and love. Although the FDA didn't let them put it on the label, this hot sauce comes from the heart. Flaming Homer's balances heat and flavor, ensuring a clean sauce that is just as tasty as it is spicy.

Fischer cherishes the entire process of running a small business because everything the consumer sees is a part of him. Everything from the label, the sauce and the shrink top to the social media and hustling in stores is all him. Find Fischer's sauces at the *DIY Fest* and online at flaminghomers.com. —Sean Rinn



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INCAN ARCADE STUDIOS



The gaming ecosystem for the modern video game enjoyer is a busy one, rife with expensive remakes, repetitive sports titles and enough micro-transactions to bankrupt **Mansa Musa**. All is not lost, however, as passionate indie game developers like the talented Incan Arcade Studios, also known as **Dominic Ojeda**, continue to produce high-quality pieces filled with attention and creativity.

"For as long as I can remember, I've always loved drawing, especially creating my own characters. I also played a lot of classic pixel art games ... There's just something really nostalgic and magical about them," says Ojeda, whose unique pixel-based style furnishes throngs of quirky and wonderful worlds. "I try to focus on infusing energy

and personality into every detail, especially through animation and color. I often aim for cartoony styles that feel vibrant and alive, where the characters move with a sense of fun and intention. I also make my games as a form of wish fulfillment. I mean, who wouldn't want to play as a rampaging dinosaur? I lean into those wild ideas and try my best to bring them to life," he says.

I'd recommend you play everything Incan Arcade Studios has ever made, but Ojeda says *Dino Mayhem* best exemplifies his skills. "It's the game I've poured the most into, especially the character designs and animations ... But I'm even more excited to see my skills improve with each new game I make." Find his creations at the *DIY Fest* and at incanarcade.itch.io. —Cam Elliott

STEM EXHIBITORS

Adrienne McElwain possesses a passion for rocks that would make the Fantastic Four's The Thing blush. McElwain credits her deep love for rocks to her father's rock shop. "I've worked with rocks ever since my ninth birthday, so I have a 30-year history with geology," she says. "In 2018, when our physical storefront closed down, I made it my personal goal to dig in mines all over the world and collect [rocks]. Since then, I've been to more than 40 countries and all seven continents, collecting, filming and discussing the different aspects of the local rocks and minerals wherever I go."

Utah is a rockhound's dream, but McElwain's favorite local rock is the Rainbow Chert found in Caineville. "Tumbling that variation of chert

produced something like an optical illusion, where the end result was matte in its appearance but felt glossy like a typical tumbled stone — so the look never matched the feel of the rock, and it was like my eyes couldn't focus on it properly."

McElwain's love for minerals is rivaled only by her passion for ethically sourced, small-batch roasted coffee beans. "For our Meteorite blend, an Argentinian dark roast, we add a small meteorite sample from Campo del Cielo, Argentina in a little specimen bag," she says. "That's the whole idea behind Crystal Beans Coffee: You get a special blend of coffee with a rock or mineral sourced from the country of the beans." Find out more at the *DIY Fest* and online at crystalbarista.com! —Cam Elliott



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JILL WHIT



Making music is always personal for multi-talented artist Jill Whit. Her songwriting often touches on the act of knowing oneself and connecting deeper to your physical and emotional body. Synth pads, keys and gentle guitar create dreamy soundscapes that are interspersed with spoken word poetry and Whit's mystical voice.

While her other artistic endeavors include tattooing, painting and ceramics, Whit has recently dove deeper into music. Her first full-length album, *time is being*, was released in 2021. "*time is being* features some spoken word pieces and was written during the pandemic," Whit says. "It felt like the right moment to step away from traditional song structures — to write more freely without worrying about rhyme

or form." The song "Maybe Means No" off the 2021 album "touches on mental health and embracing the fullness of being alive," she says.

Whit has a new album coming this fall, and it's got more of a groove. This will comprise the majority of her set at *DIY Fest*, which will feature bandmates **Dylan Almond** and **Dylan Roe**. "The sound shifts away from the ambient space and leans more into an electronic, steel wave direction," Whit says. "Some songs have more momentum and drive — you can actually move to them, maybe even dance a little."

Whit and her band will perform at *DIY Fest's* KRCL stage on Friday, August 8 at 9:30 p.m. Listen to her music on Bandcamp and follow her Instagram @jillwhit_. — Kyle Forbush

PERFORMERS

A new type of dance emerged in West Hollywood in the '70s, first called punking but more commonly referred to today as whacking (or waacking). This countercultural dance form is a powerful means of expression for the marginalized groups that created it, which flourishes through the group SLC PUNKS.

One of the crew's leaders, **Julia Ma**, says that before their founding there "was never a distinct community space for whackers to come together" in Salt Lake. Then, in 2022, Ma and others started hosting open punking sessions which attracted dancers of all styles. Ma says there was a "desire for this type of dance and culture."

While every member of SLC PUNKS is a multifaceted artist with vary-

ing influences, they all draw from the history of original punkers. Much of their inspiration came from the drama of Hollywood glamour, including notions of strength and power from kung fu movies. "There's no limit to what can inspire you," Ma says. "That's what makes our movement so special."

Their performances feature rapid hand movements and synchronization as dancers feed off each other's energy. "It's an emotional dance that lets you express your feelings through dramatics and theatricality ... through which we've found local and global community," Ma says. Watch them at the *DIY Fest's* KRCL stage on Saturday, August 9 at 4:30 p.m. and learn more on Instagram at @slc.punks. — Kyle Forbush



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BEER BITES SPIRITS SHENANIGANS

Chances are, the last time you stepped foot in the *Utah State Fairpark*, it was for the *X Games*, *Kilby Block Party* or perhaps the esteemed *Craft Lake City DIY Festival*. And maybe you've already marked your calendar for *REDWEST* or a *jaripeo* — a rodeo known for its adrenaline-pumping bull-riding. But when was the last time you went for the actual *Utah State Fair*?

I'm no stranger to a good fair. As a kid, I was a regular — I even won People's Choice for my chocolate chip cookies at 13 and later held the glamorous title of Miss San Juan County in 2019. But somewhere along the way, the fair dropped off my radar. It just didn't feel like it had anything to offer me as an adult.

At least, that's what I thought, until I sat down with **Larry Mullenax** and **Nicki Claeys**, the executive and deputy executive directors of the fair. "The fair has been a reflection of Utah for a long time," Mullenax tells me. "Some people would argue we're not as relevant today, but we are. They like to say baseball is what keeps the fabric of society together. We'd argue it's fairs."

As Mullenax says this, he and Claeys show me huge, yellowed scrapbooks from their archives. There's everything from ancient newspaper clippings advertising 25¢ fair entry (10¢ for kids!) to a former participant's collection of fair awards. One 1929 blue ribbon reads "First Prize: Cock," presumably for premium poultry.

That's when I learn the fair is actually older than the state of Utah itself. Its roots go back to 1856, just a few years after the first Mormon pioneers arrived. What started as an agricultural showcase has slowly and steadily morphed into a reflection of Utah's evolving identity.

"I like to say that the fair was the first internet. It's where you came to get all of your knowledge right in one place," Mullenax says. "If you wanted to learn

THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE



By Aspen English • aspentree56@gmail.com
Photos by @robtookthis

about farming, tooling, whatever ... that's where you went to get all your knowledge."

In the early days, it was the original life hack: Learn how to plant a better tomato, see a new

textile loom in action or marvel at butter-churning techniques. But over the decades, the fair has expanded with Utah's shifting demographics and sensibilities, becoming less about tractors and more about connection.

"We've been the consistent thing in Utah's history from day one," Mullenax says. "And while we still do our best to maintain a relationship with our core roots, we have evolved as society has."

This year's fair runs September 4-14, and its tagline, "Nowhere but the Fair," couldn't be more appropriate. I mean, where else can you eat a funnel cake, ride a rollercoaster, watch a farrier shoe a horse, catch a demolition derby and see a life-size sculpture of a cow carved entirely from butter all in the same day?

For 11 days, the fair will host hundreds of events: live cookoffs, fine art competitions, trapeze artists, stunt dog shows, wildlife rescue presentations and yes, plenty of rodeos, but what Mullenax and Claeys really want people to know is that the fair isn't just for spectators. It's a showcase for creators of all kinds.

"We believe that there's actually a resurgence in participation — we're seeing younger people starting to get more involved as makers," Mullenax says. "We also have one of the largest fine arts collections in the state. More people will see fine art at the state fair than [at] all the other galleries combined during the whole year."

There's something unexpectedly joyful about watching a cow milking demo before wandering over to the quilting exhibit, grabbing a fried pickle and ending your day with a monster truck rally. "There's something for everyone," Mullenax says simply.

Visit utahstatefair.com to grab presale tickets while they're discounted, or follow along on Instagram at @utahstatefair for updates. Yeehaw!

Nicki Claeys & Larry Mullenax



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SLUG
VIDEO

On Wednesday, August 20, join *SLUG* for a pared-down, bluesy rock show that will touch your heart and set you free. Your shepherds through the night are co-headliners **Whisperhawk** and **Kirk Dath Band** with opener **Adrian Rollins**. *SLUG Localized* is sponsored by *Riso-Geist* and hosted at *Kilby Court*. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and tickets are only \$5.

By the time he started releasing music as Whisperhawk in 2017, Utah singer-songwriter **Michael Gross** had already spent 15 years cutting his teeth in the state's indie scene — first with his band **The Brobecks**, and later through a string of collaborative projects including **Let's Become Actors** and **The Lazy Waves**. But the Whisperhawk project marked a turn inward — a solo venture born out of the creative necessity to write and record on his own terms.

Armed with a library of song ideas accumulated over two decades, Gross leaned into what he could do on his own. He fine-tuned his home studio and gave himself “a college education in audio production.” The result is a prolific and ever-growing catalog that spans styles and subjects but shares a common thread: the immediacy of inspiration, captured before it fades.

Gross, who is a member of the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation, says that heritage and identity have been central pillars of his songwriting.

ing in recent years. “I’ve gotten more involved with Native American issues as I’ve gotten older,” he says. “That’s definitely inspired some of the songs, but I just try to write about very human things — experience, relationships, the world we’re living in.”

His 2023 release *Keepers of the Earth Vol. 2* combined folk, indie rock and storytelling to confront complex histories — including the 1863 Bear River Massacre, in which an estimated 400 Shoshone people were killed. Still, Whisperhawk is not defined by any single subject. One track might deliver a meditation on memory or cultural survival; another might offer a wry take on modern life. “I can be a pretty sarcastic person,” Gross says. “Humor sneaks into the lyrics, even when I’m writing about serious things.”

The name “Whisperhawk” draws from that same blend of personal history and perpetual reinvention. Read the rest of the *Localized* interview on *SLUGMag.com*!

A longtime fixture in Salt Lake City’s DIY music scene, **Kirk Dath** has played in a plethora of bands, developing a deep familiarity with the cycle of creative reinvention. His pockets lined with experience, Dath began performing under his own name about five years ago. In 2021, Kirk Dath Band released their sprawling double-album epic, *Monoliths*.

Now, the band is channeling their varied musical backgrounds and desert-tinged psychedelic roots while exploring new rhythmic grooves and futurist narratives. Rounding out Dath’s lead guitar and vocals, **Sean McCarthy** plays synth and organ, **Dimitri Katsanevas** plays bass, **Levi Ollerton** plays drums, **Mack Moon** contributes backing vocals and hand percussion and **Mac Wray** adds guitar, percussion and additional vocals.

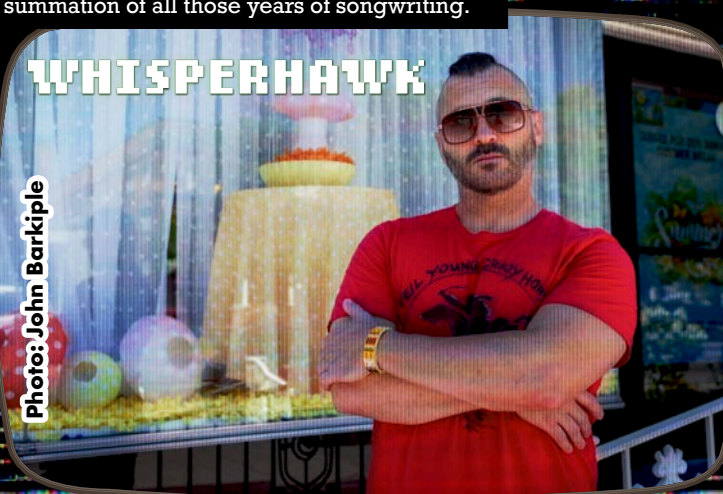
Themes of grief, heartbreak and multiple lineup changes shaped *Monoliths*’ 13 tracks

— including the 22-minute “Trenches” — which stretch across a panoramic canvas like stars in the desert sky. “*Monoliths* was about monolithic obstacles we desperately sought to survive,” says the album’s liner notes. “We had to stop dead in our tracks, reassess our priorities and learn to walk again.”

Since recording *Monoliths*, Dath and longtime collaborator McCarthy have led an effort to refine the band’s sound into something more streamlined, danceable — even groovy. “I wanted it to be a mix between **LCD Soundsystem** and **The B-52’s** with **Pink Floyd** and **Black Sabbath**,” Dath says, citing the eclectic influences behind the band’s next chapter. “It’s story-driven psychedelic rock you can dance to.”

At the heart of this transformation is a combination of auxiliary percussion and modular synthesizers. Read the rest of the *Localized* interview on *SLUGMag.com*!

(From L-R): Kirk Dath Band is made up of Dimitri Katsanevas, Levi Ollerton, Mac Wray, Kirk Dath, Sean McCarthy and Mack Moon.



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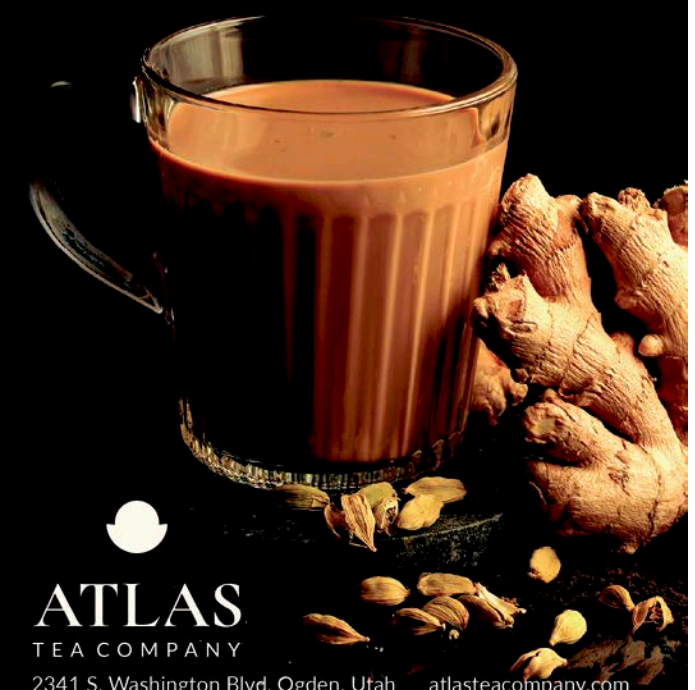
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Jamie XX - 8.7 Ogden Twilight | **Julie** - 8.7 Soundwell | **Mt Joy** - 8.12 Twilight Concert Series - Library Square
Men I Trust - 8.12 The Complex | **The Head And The Heart** - 8.13 Ogden Twilight | **Our Last Night** - 8.15 The Complex
We Came As Roman - 8.15 The Union | **An Evening With Wilco** - 8.20 Ogden Twilight
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