

Tenacious

Feb. 9 - April 4, 2007
Connections Café

The observant, witty and determined work of **Christy Puetz**, of Phoenix, and **Barbara Burton**, of Mesa, uniquely connects thoughts and expresses life's passages through images, symbols and metaphors.

Though working in different media, each artist's work is rooted in the expression of individual challenges. As female artists, they seem to gather, recall and nurture the images and characters from their own thoughts and experiences into families of stories to be shared.



Two Much Tea, by Barbara Burton



Tea for Two
by Barbara Burton

Artist's statement: "I hadn't realized how much of my art is about getting over the *humps* in life. When invited to submit for this exhibit, I looked back and realized that most of the figurative art is, in some way, about challenges for either myself or our society as a whole.

"The metaphorical street curbs, broken concrete sidewalks, and chairs that reach out and grab purses as you walk by, are what make life difficult and interesting. I often feel I could go without them entirely. But that would require sitting in my house, quietly, not moving, talking on the phone, petting my dogs, or.....anything. I'm not good at that.

"Instead, my way of dealing is usually humor. There are some real anger pieces I've done on occasion and, I've been told many of those "cute" rabbits I do have an edge. But, mostly, I laugh at myself, my mistakes, and my challenges. I learn from my experiences, I try to do better and I share my reflections about the journey through my artwork.

Barbara Burton

www.bburtontart.com

Burton has been print-making for about 10 years, working with low and non-toxic methods and employing a variety of traditional and non-traditional methods. Some of her work is a multi-color reduction block print; she also works in monotypes and numerous intaglio methods. Her prints are inspired by short stories, news stories and pieces of conversations heard in passing. They are an examination of everyday life.

Artists

Christy Puetz

creates beaded and mixed-media sculptures and two-dimensional pieces that focus on the odd, downplayed and ignored parts of human nature. She draws on the subjects such as conjoined twins, skin diseases, human physical and mental abnormalities and ties them to historical and cultural information dealing with these conditions. The form becomes the embodiment of misacceptance, as well as a comical outlet for the strange parts of what makes us most human.

Artist's statement: "My work isn't specific to female trials and tribulations, [it] contains both masculine and feminine essences...the female form does tend to dominate. [The figures] are my interpretation of another person's challenges or joys or [my] twisting around unique traits of people. Many times, my figures are genderless and anthropomorphic."

Art Connections Café

With Christy Puetz and Barbara Burton
Noon, Feb. 15
Connections Café
Tempe Public Library
3500 S. Rural Road

www.tempe.gov/arts/events/cafe.htm



Edelweiss, by Christy Puetz,
glass beads and felt. Photo by
Dave Saker.



Meat quilt, by Christy Puetz, glass beads
and aida cloth. Photo by Kristin Fukuchi.

Connections Café hours

9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday-Thursday
9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Friday-Saturday
Noon to 5:30 p.m., Sunday
(Closed on city-observed holidays)