

Lost and Found

Aug. 23-Dec. 11, 2013

Connections Café



He Just Leaves
by John Randall Nelson

“Lost and Found,” an exhibition highlighting the use of reusable objects features Tempe artists Troy Moody and John Randall Nelson. Both make artwork out of recognizable shapes and materials, giving them new purpose and meaning. Nelson uses discarded traffic signs that have lost their purpose and finds them new meaning. Moody incorporates found objects like old window frames and hardware in his work and gives them new use in his stained glass pieces. Likewise, the artists’ works have a sense of nostalgia that relates to human relationships and cultural environment.

About the Artists

John Randall Nelson has been working as a painter and sculptor for the past 16 years. He earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from Arizona State University and currently teaches painting at Phoenix College.

Some of his clients for commissions include the National Endowment for the Arts, the United States Postal Service, the Disney Corporation in Los Angeles and the Perrier Corporation of Paris, France. Nelson’s works are best known for taking simple, bold and recognizable images of everyday symbols and imbuing them with a sense of theatricality. He describes the meaning behind the works as subjective for each viewer given his or her varied experiences and frame of reference.

“These artworks are ‘altered-sign’ paintings made with re-cycled street and traffic signs salvaged from the Tempe Transportation Department. The iconic folk art style of the forms and imagery touch on imagination and social dexterity as a means of crossing boundaries.” www.whonelson.com

Troy Moody was born in Texas and grew up in Tempe. Before finding glass, he worked mostly with pen and ink. He was introduced to abstract stained glass art produced in post-World War II Germany while on a backpacking trip through Europe 15 years ago. The experience left him awestruck “not only by the bold fields of color and the unorthodox and expressive line work but also by the revelation of the enormous realm of possibilities presented by art glass.”

Not surprisingly, Moody describes himself as a student of the “University of Life, Planet Earth” with an emphasis on eclectic studies on “general happiness and well-being.”

Today, he creates art in his Tempe-based studio for both private and commercial commissions. In 2006 he designed the terrazzo floor for the Phoenix Convention Center and later, a 75,000-square-foot terrazzo project for the Maricopa County Court Tower.

“This work is from a recent series of art glass assemblage celebrating the found object and the diverse characteristics of glass. By creating crafted meditations on the intangible heirlooms of family mythology, I hope to explore our relationships with the material world and the by-products of our cultural narratives. The repurposed objects I incorporate into my work seem imbued with a history - the resonance of life and a memory of function. The chipping layers of paint, rusted hardware and aged wood grains evoke nostalgia while the glow and sparkle of the manipulated glass becomes anachronistic and contemplative.” www.troymood.com