

OUTSIDERS WITHIN

April 25-July 3, 2009



Monica Martinez: Title: *Finding Myself Losing Myself*

ARTISTS

Jose Benavides, Phoenix
Cristina Cardenas, Tucson
Alfredo Manzo Cedano, Phoenix
Ignacio Farias, Phoenix
Maya Gonzales, San Francisco
Tliza Jaurique, Phoenix and New York City
Randy Kemp, Phoenix
Marion Martinez, Glorieta, N.M.
Monica Aissa Martinez, Phoenix
Eduardo Oropeza, Los Angeles
Sarah Sense, Sacramento, Calif.
Hoka Skenadore, Albuquerque, N.M.
Ryan Huna Smith, Prescott
Kade Twist, Tempe
Will Wilson, Tucson
Melanie Yazzie, Boulder, Colo.
Steven Yazzie, Phoenix
Frank Ybarra, Phoenix
Marcus Zilliox, Phoenix and New York City

Like many artists today, contemporary Latina/o and Native American artists often refer to personal, cultural and historical experiences for inspiration. The title of the show is a play on words revealing the subtle nuances of artwork that doesn't always fit exclusively into one or more styles or artworlds.

The United States boasts a number of artworlds: traditional landscapes, African American folk art and contemporary quilts. There are also sub-categories within each artworld, such as California coastal landscape artists working with photographs as opposed to Southwestern artists working in the desert plein-air. Each holds some ideas in common; yet, other practices they perform differently.

Within the contemporary Latina/o and Native American artworlds there are differences and commonalities between the artists. One of the shared commonalties is the balancing act the artists do between the contemporary museum, the commercial gallery realm and the traditions of the culture from which they were born. This exhibition seeks to explore those commonalities and create a dialog with the artists and audiences about the way they are affected by their own backgrounds and how that might affect their approach to visual art.

Contributors

Berlin Gallery at the Heard Museum Shop - www.berlingallery.org
Friends of the Tempe Center for the Arts - www.friendsoftca.org
Glen Green Galleries - www.glenngreen.com
Hispanic Research Center at Arizona State University - www.asu.edu/clas/hrc
Xico Inc. - www.xicoinc.com

OUTSIDERS WITHIN

Jose Benavides, Phoenix

Jose A. Benavides is a multi-faceted artist who allows his experiences from being raised in the grape fields of California and later earning an Art and Mechanical Engineer dual degree to shine through his artworks. The fully-functioning art car featured in *Outsiders Within* juxtaposes a religious traditional icon with a modern icon. Benavides earned his Master of Fine Art in Studio Art from Arizona State University. He looks to “enrich society” and “strengthen the Chicano community” with his artworks.



Benevides detail head

Cristina Cardenas, Tucson

Cristina Cárdenas was born in Guadalajara, Mexico. In Mexico, Cárdenas found her main inspiration from the tradition of the Mexican muralistas.

She received her B.A. in Guadalajara and her Master of Fine Art in printmaking at the University of Arizona. In Arizona, she founded friendships with Arizona artists Luis Carlos Bernal, Alfred Quiroz and Luis Jimenez, and her work became more political and personal.

Today, she uses Amate paper “as a vehicle to connection with the ancestors.” The Amate paper is made from the same Aztec recipe the Otomi Indians used for several centuries. Her large-scale works on Amate paper reflect Cárdenas’ desire to link earth to soul.



CriCarNinaDeEspejos

Alfredo Manzo Cedeno, Phoenix



Alfredo Manzo Cedeno was born in La Havana, Cuba, in the 1960s in the middle of the Cold War. In Havana, he earned his bachelor's degree in painting and later received the equivalent of a master's degree in arts education from the National San Alejandro Academy of the Arts.

The works he featured in this exhibition are part of a series that pay tribute to Andy Warhol's contribution to Pop Art, an art form that emerged as mass advertising and television became dominant forces in American life. Yet Warhol's style served also as a template for the Revolution posters in Cuba as well. Thus he refers to his work as *populista* because of its reference to both Cuban and American culture and heritage.

Campbell's Showtime

Ignacio Farias, Phoenix

Ignacio Farias was born and raised in Mexico City. When he became an artist, he worked in both New York City and Mexico City where he was impressed by the human concentrations in the cities of Mexico and New York and said that the “individuals are harmonizing but not blending.”

He uses a range of tools to achieve the dimensions and patterns he creates. From pencil and paper to brushes, canvas or spatulas, syringes or combs, icepicks, cameras, darkroom and all digital resources make up his artistic tool box. He follows the idea that: “The only real rule in art is that there are not rules.”

www.ignaciofarias.com

Maya Gonzales, San Francisco

Maya Christina Gonzalez lives in San Francisco. Gonzalez studied with the University of Oregon's creative writing and fine arts programs. She is the primary illustrator for children's book authors Francisco Alarcón and Amada Irma Pérez. In 2007, she released her first children's book, *My Colors, My World*. Many of Gonzalez's works involve women figures interacting with a traditional or contemporary icon that gives the piece dual meaning.

Trisza Jaurique, Phoenix and NYC

Trisza Jaurique is a Mexica/Yaqui/Basque/Xicana multi-media artist who was born in Phoenix. When she was a child, Trisza's grandmother would tell her about the family's experiences in Mexico and of their difficult journey to the United States. They traveled and worked through Texas and Arizona mining towns before finally settling in south Phoenix. Trisza's grandmother also called herself a "Toltec," an ancient Mesoamerican word for artist, and passed this idea on to her granddaughter.

She is a painter, print-maker, sculptor, and muralist. She works in videos and film in design, performance, and production. Her bachelor's degree is in Philosophy with minors in Studio Art and Hispanic Literature from Vassar College. Her master's degree is in art education and she continued her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction at Arizona State University. Jaurique designs and instructs many classes in art, philosophy, and religion throughout the Greater Phoenix area and beyond.

www.jaurique-zilliox.com



LaMuerte

Randy Kemp, Phoenix

Randy Kemp is of Choctaw/Euchee-Creek (Turtle Clan) heritage. He was born in Los Angeles, Calif., and grew up in Sapulpa, Okla. Kemp follows several of the traditions of the Southeastern Woodlands people and honors the old ways of his people while he still enjoys the modern world. His artwork includes performance media incites people think about how Native American people can honor their traditions and still work with computers and listen to iPods.

Kemp holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in painting from Arizona State University. Previously, he studied under the artistic leadership of prominent American Indian artists: W. Richard West, Sr., Solomon McCombs and Ruthe Blalock Jones. Kemp works in multiple disciplines in the contemporary American Indian art world including painting, printmaking, installation, music and performance. Kemp currently works as an Environmental Graphic Designer, Sr. at ASU. He is a member of Xicanindio Artes, Inc. and is a registered artist with the Native American National Arts consortium, Atlatl, Inc., headquarters in Phoenix.



Red Raven

<http://web.mac.com/randykemp1/iWeb/Randy%20Kemp/Home.html>

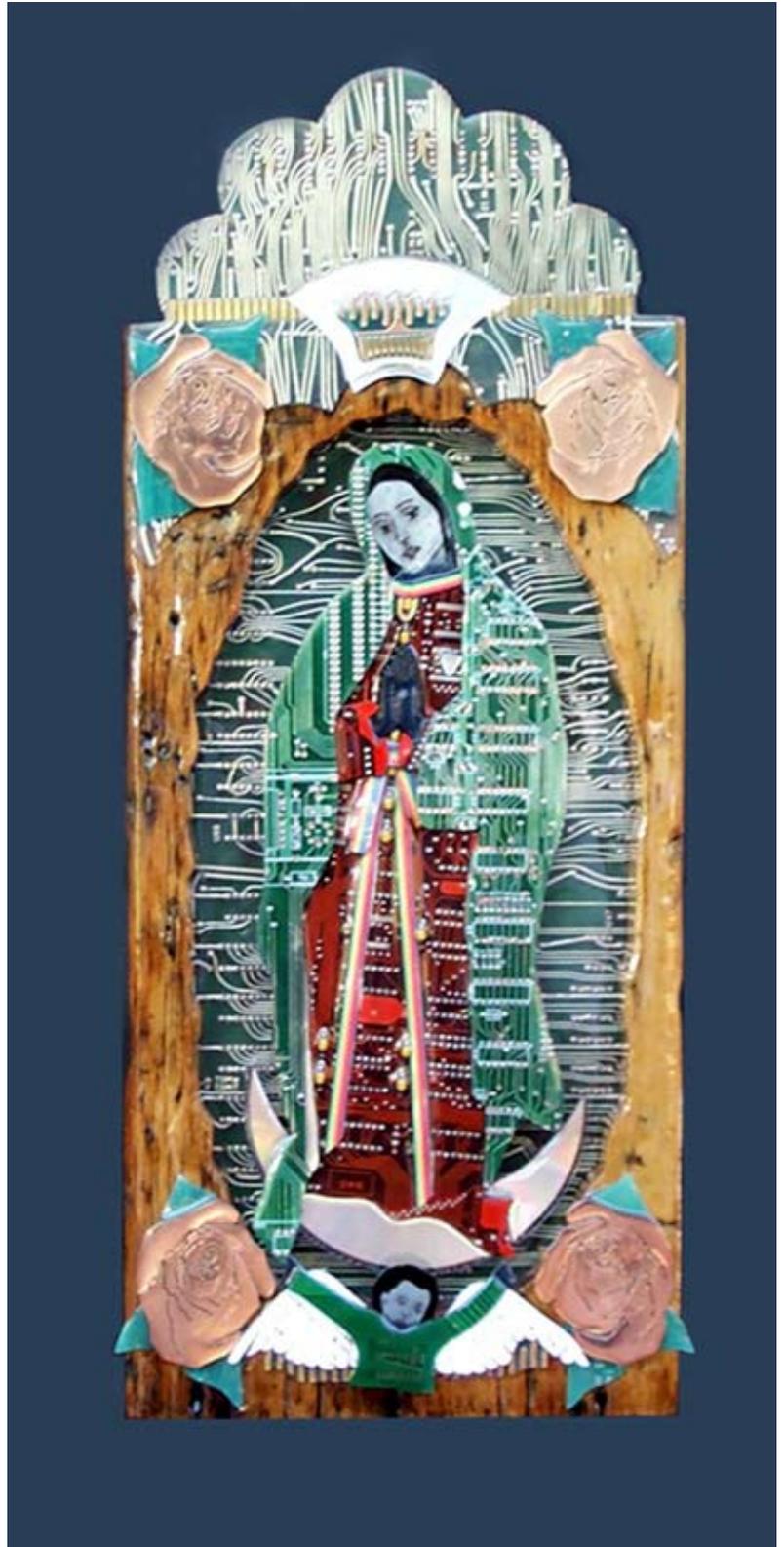
Marion Martinez, Glorieta, N.M.

Marion C. Martinez was raised in Los Luceros, N.M. After her graduation from Espanola High School, she attended the College of Santa Fe. Following her graduation from College of Santa Fe, Marion began her career as a family therapist and as a psychotherapist in private practice working primarily with abused and neglected children and their foster families and families of origin.

Marion began collecting and salvaging discarded circuit boards and other electronic components and creating wearable art, sculpture and wall hangings.

She is now a full-time artist whose use of electronic items and recycled materials allow for another example of juxtaposing traditional iconography and modern technology in artwork.

www.marionmartinez.com



Virge de Guadalupe

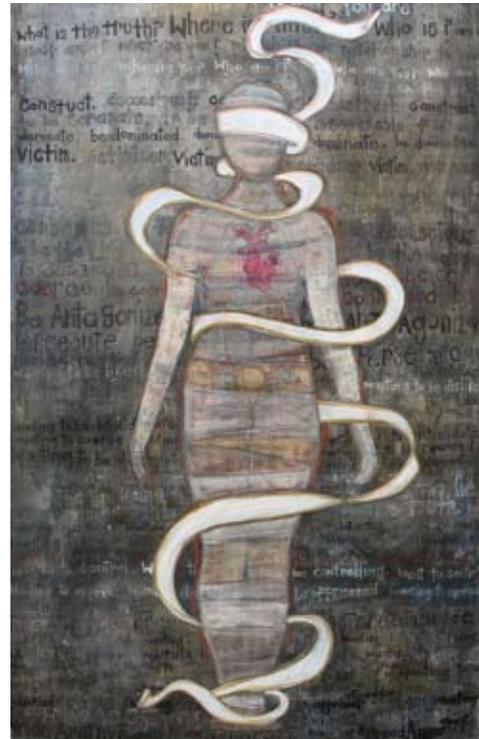
Monica Aissa Martinez, Phoenix

Monica Aissa Martinez was born in El Paso, Texas.

She earned her Bachelor of Fine Art from the University of Texas at El Paso and her Master of Fine Art from New Mexico State University at Las Cruces.

She currently works as a professor at Phoenix College.

monicaaissamartinez.com



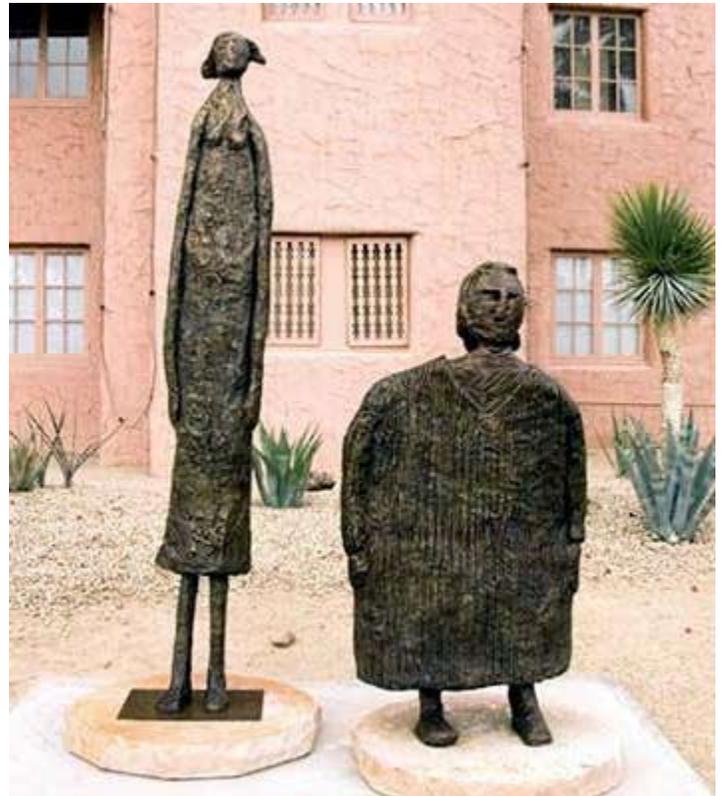
Unraveling

Eduardo Oropeza, Los Angeles

Eduardo Oropeza was brought up in California in a family of migrant workers and later spent much of his time living in East Los Angeles. He was an observant man, keenly interested in the human condition whose work reveals both the serious and humorous moments of life. He excelled in photography, printmaking and sculpture.

This quiet, humble man was a true outsider who had a difficult time receiving praise and even being present at his own art receptions. He built a large mosaic shrine to the Virgin of Guadalupe at Self Help Graphics in East L.A. that he transformed from a spot where drug dealing and prostitution flourished to a place of community observances and celebrations. Eduardo stood back silently watching this conversion not wanting the people taking part to know that he was the artist-he wanted to be just one of the assembled crowd.

He worked at Self Help Graphics doing prints and generously produced murals on this two-story building. Self Help distributed his serigraphs and lithographs throughout the world. Later, his association with Glenn Green Galleries in Santa Fe and Scottsdale led to his sculpture becoming internationally known.



Horizontes

Sarah Sense, Sacramento, Calif.

Sarah Sense was born and raised in Northern California. Since the beginning of her career, Sense has worked with people of all ages through educational mural projects and cultural programs.

On the Chitimacha Reservation in Louisiana she was the co-founder and leader of the “Chitimacha Warrior Summer Youth Program” as well as coordinator and muralist of the “Yaamahana Youth Mural Project.”

In Lincoln, Calif., she was the co-coordinator and muralist of the “Markam Ravine Youth Mural Project” at Foskett Ranch Elementary.

Sense received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from California State University Chico and a Master of Fine Arts from Parsons’ The New School for Design. Upon graduation from Parsons, Sense became the Director and Curator of the AICH Gallery in New York City.

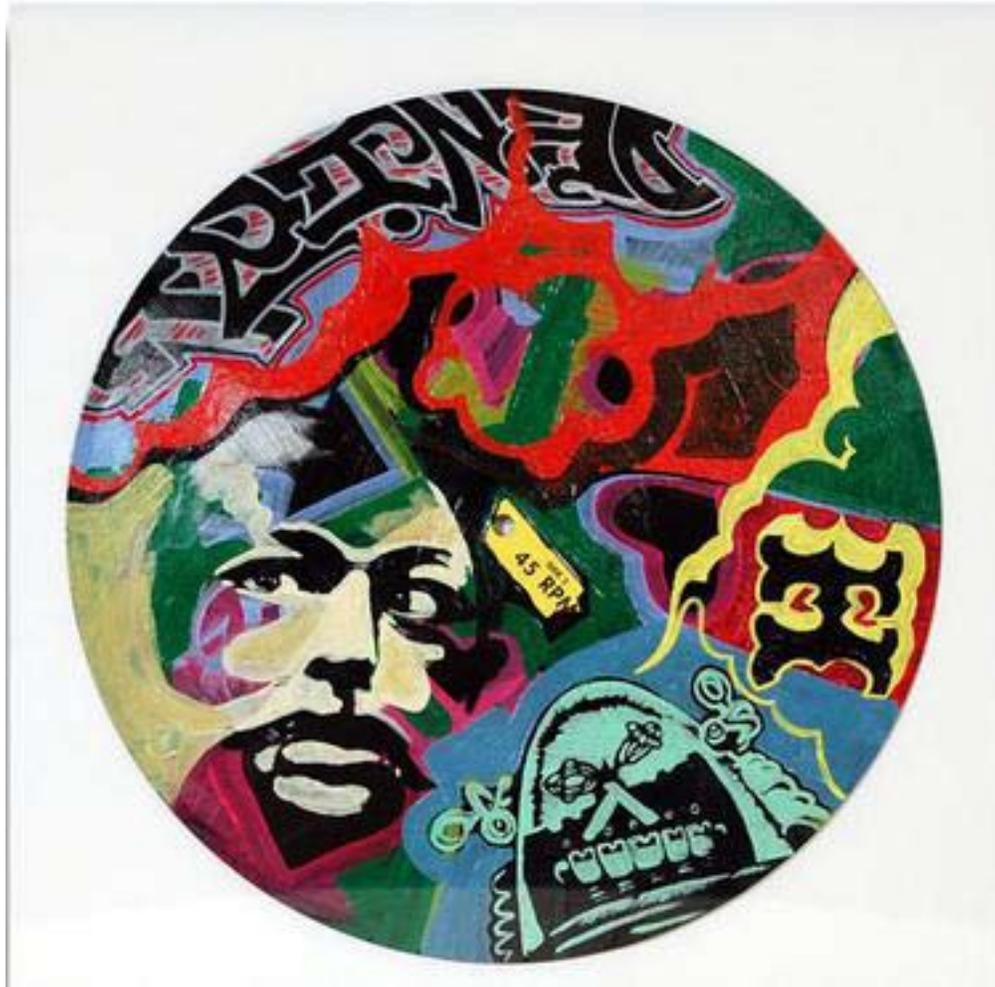
Her work is represented in collections across the United States and Canada. Currently, Sense is living and working in Southern California.

www.sarahsense.com



14kt Cowgirl

Hoka Skenadore, Albuquerque, N.M.



Under the Boardwalk

Hoka A. Skenandore (Oneida/Oglala Lakota/ Luiseno/Chicano) was born in Santa Fe, N.M. As one of the youngest artists featured in this exhibition, Skenandore's works show a connection to his generation and urban culture with energetic works that refer to graffiti, street murals, and pop rebellion. Skenandore holds a bachelor's degree from the Institute of American Indian Arts' Studio Arts Program.

“What the mass media offers is not popular art, but entertainment which is intended to be consumed like food, forgotten, and replaced by a new dish. An Artist is someone who produces things that people don't need to have but that he - for some reason - thinks it would be a good idea to give them. Finally, the function of art is to disturb. Science reassures... .”

Ryan Huna Smith, Prescott



Ryan Huna Smith is a member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes in Parker.

He was born in Parker in 1967 and was raised in Needles, Calif. He attended the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico and received a Certification in 2 Dimensional Art in 1987.

He then transferred to the University of Arizona in Tucson where he received his Bachelors in Fine Arts degree with an emphasis in Illustration in 1994.

Smith is currently Director of the Smoki Museum of American Indian Art and Culture in Prescott. He also works as a freelance artist and illustrator.

www.ryanhunasmith.com

Female Yei

Kade Twist, Tempe

Kade Twist, Cherokee, is a multi-disciplinary artist who works with video, installation, sound, and text. Twist's work embeds Indigenous postcolonial narratives within a contemporary landscape of American popular culture and consumerism. He is one of the co-founders of Postcommodity, a contemporary American Indian artist collective working to advance postcolonial Indigenous discourse through

collaborative, interdisciplinary, transborder actions. Twist received the 2007 Native Writers' Circle of the Americas First Book Award for his poetry manuscript, *Amazing Grace*. Twist graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a bachelor's degree in American Indian studies, with an emphasis on tribal policy and economic development. Twist is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma.



Video presentation



Will Wilson, Tucson



Auto Immune Response Series #14

Will Wilson, Navajo, was born in San Francisco and moved permanently to the Navajo Reservation at the age of 10. He attended the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Tuba City Boarding School from 1978 to 1983.

He holds a bachelor's degree in art history and studio art and a master's of fine art in photography. Wilson has worked in a variety of media and has produced large-scale multi-media installations that incorporate photography and sculpture, monumental art pieces and intimate photo essays.

In addition to his profession as an artist and photographer, he is also an arts educator and community organizer. Wilson has taught sculpture at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, N.M.,

and he served two years as a photojournalist in Central America for the Associated Press. He currently resides in Tucson, Ariz., where he is the co-director of the Barrio Anita Community Mural Project (BAMP), the largest public art commission in Tucson's history.

Wilson's work focuses on Navajo people and their relationship to the land "In my work, there are stories that I grew up with, stories bringing together the cultural weave from which I come. These stories are personal to me as an individual and as a member/citizen of a people, therefore they must be presented and received with respect," Wilson says. "I want my work to strengthen Indians with examples of resistance, and the possibilities of controlling one's own representation."

Melanie Yazzie, Boulder, Colo.



Melanie Yazzie is Navajo/Dine of the Salt Water Clan and Bitter Water Clan of the Dine-Navajo People of North Eastern Arizona. She is Associate Professor of Art at the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colorado. She works with different media based depending on the subject matter.

“In my role as an artist I have been exploring and researching many different issues that relate to native people. I make prints, ceramic animals and mixed media pieces. When traveling I find stories that are not in our history books but are held within oral history. The pieces I make are a visual history of this “one” Navajo traveling and breaking down colonial ideas of who we are as native people. I dream of a day that people will begin to know that our stories are not myth or legend. That as first peoples we have known each other before and have not forgotten one another. We are returning to each other with each passing year!”

Strenth from Within

Steven Yazzie, Phoenix

Steven Yazzie received an education at Phoenix College and the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. His work has been exhibited at the Heard Museum and the Phoenix Art Museum; Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Arizona; and, in Spain and The Czech Republic. While most of his work is painting, Yazzie also works in sculpture, video, installation and mixed media. His recent work addresses concerns of urbanism in the twenty-first century, particularly in the southwestern United States.

www.stevenyazzie.com

Frank Ybarra, Phoenix

Frank Ybarra grew up in a family that was proud of its Mexican roots but was fully assimilated into U.S. culture, encouraging him to speak English so that he would fit easily into society.

Ybarra served as a graphic designer for 12 years and started doing freelance illustration projects. He continues to produce studio works that are successful and allow him to be a full time artist.

Ybarra's colorful neo-Cubist works are cartographic icons of the U.S. Southwest, indicators of place and vehicles of memory.

Ybarra grew up on the east side of Phoenix and frequently uses physical landmarks that were parts of his childhood experience in his work. He draws inspiration from familiar themes in the Southwest, as well as "American" family life, infusing his subjects with whimsy, vibrancy, and symbolism.

Both Ybarra's Mexican American cultural heritage and the desert environment inspire him.

www.ybarraart.com



Backyard Pachanga

Marcus Zilliox, Phoenix and NYC

Marcus Zilliox is of both Native American and Mexican American descent. He grew up with the Gila River Pima Community until age seven, when his family moved to Phoenix where he grew up in the barrios of the south and west sides. These experiences inform and shape his works that use smoke or found objects to form patterns and traditional Native American and Mexican American iconography such as skeletons or housing. Zilliox received his BFA at Arizona State University in 1997 and received his MFA in Painting/Printmaking at Yale School of Art, 2007. In 2002, Zilliox was selected as a Community Scholar by the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

www.jaurique-zilliox.com