

Folded Together

Nov. 16, 2007, - Jan. 9, 2008

Connections Café



Works by Helen Rowles

The show, *Folded Together*, describes the imagery represented on these two artists' works on fabric or panel. Both Helen Rowles and Rachel Wilson display artwork that seeks to show change dealing with nature and the natural cycle of life. Through color and texture that gestures toward different meanings, when the selected works combine in this exhibit, the meanings come together. The artists chose the title, *Folded Together*, as an appropriate description of how they learned to engage their work together in this Connections Café exhibition.

Helen Rowles is a graduate of Arizona State University with a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts in Drawing and teaches drawing and colored pencil at the Mesa Art Center. She has showcased her vivid paintings in galleries throughout the Phoenix Metropolitan area and the stage, including the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Art Institute in Tucson. She won Best of Show in 2004 in the Colored Pencil Society of America's juried show at the Art Institute of Phoenix.

Rowles titled this series, "Scarves of Heaven," and calls it a "tribute to all who have gone through breast cancer; both survivors and those who have not survived. Each scarf represents a different personality, age group and ethnicity, emphasizing the diversity of those who are stricken with this disease."

Rowles says that her experience with the Connections Café and working with Rachel Wilson has been a "wonderful way to meet another artist whose work relates to mine in both obvious and symbolic ways. The café has provided a space for both of us to show our work together in a way that emphasizes the individuality of our work while illustrating the ideas and images that we share."

Rachel Wilson is a multi-faceted artist who not only participates in making art but also serves as an active member of several art groups from her permanent home in Flagstaff. She participates in the Diablo Trust Forum for the Arts, Women's Caucus for the Arts, the Phoenix Art Detour and the Artists' Coalition of Flagstaff. In the past few years, she has featured her art at the Night Visions Exhibition as part of the Smithsonian Culturefest in Flagstaff, as well as in the Coloring Outside the Lines exhibit at Shemer Art Center in Phoenix.

The mixed media monotypes and paintings on nylon that Wilson creates seek to "explore the spaces where change takes place. Sometimes the change is temporal, a change of season or day into night. Sometimes it is geographical...other times it involves more abstract considerations such as a change of personal state like falling asleep or passing through an important life ritual."

By working with Helen Rowles, Wilson says, "This show reinforced my thoughts about the cyclical nature of changes, how years and lives can be folded and refolded together to make something new and special each time, while the essential kernel remains inviolate."

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)