

Fractured Patterns

Jan. 29-May 12, 2010
Connections Café



"Cowboy Trash!" by Hallie Mueller

Hallie Mueller received a bachelor of fine arts degree from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, in 2006. She also studied painting abroad at the Burren College of Art in Ballyvaughan, Ireland. She

also has taught art classes to youth and adults locally at the Scottsdale Preparatory Academy and back east in New Haven, Conn. Mueller is inspired by children, whose contagious energy and wide range of interests remind her "that there are an infinite number of ways to enjoy life."

Mueller's early work illustrates a process of learning to paint and illustrating still objects and ideas. But her current work is about motion. While in Ireland she began to observe the complexities of unselfconscious human behavior. She says they are most "blatantly apparent in the antsy middle school students" she now teaches. The way she paints and thinks about the work incorporates a process of using transparency, overlaps and depth to convey ideas and images. Though some of the brushwork appears hasty, the methodology and outcomes are formulaic in nature.



"G-Mail" by Christine Sandifur

Christine Sandifur was born in Washington, D.C., and originally studied nursing, receiving a bachelor's degree from San Jacinto College in Texas in 1969. In 1994 she pursued her interest in art and earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in printmaking and sculpture from Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle. Since then, she has been showing her work extensively around Arizona at spaces including the Herberger Theater and Chandler Center for the Arts. She has been an instructor of printmaking for the city of Phoenix and Brio Fine Art Center and guest curated shows at Grand Canyon University.

Her influences include personal observations, childhood memories, current events and decorative handmade objects like patchwork quilts, stone inlays, carpets and mosaics. Printmaking and the problem-solving processes involved in making art especially sparks her interest.

"This series of monoprints are additive and subtractive. A square motif is used and repeated often enough in the total composition to make a new dominant feature. The complexity of the patterns will change depending on the viewing distance. Common to this new work is reliance upon units of structure and a continuing interest in the themes of replication and repetition. When one can reconcile two ideas that were previously thought opposites, it opens up so many new possibilities. Paradox is simply a natural part of life. My influence comes from quilts, carpets, stone inlays, iron fretwork, mosaics and the geometry found in past and present cultures: celebrating these handmade works."