

Earthly Pursuits

May 14-Oct. 6, 2010
Connections Café

Artists Robert Bauer and Bertica García Dubus present examples of their work that includes flower and fauna themes. Bauer's work celebrates life in the desert and is characterized by an expressionistic style that uses painterly brushstrokes and vibrant colors. Dubus' realistic still life paintings reveal subtle variations in light and color.

About the Artists

Robert Bauer is a native Mid-westerner and was born in Decatur, Ill. He moved to Arizona where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in art education from Arizona State University, a Master of Arts degree in painting from Northern Arizona University and a Master of Fine Arts degree in painting from Arizona State University. At first, Bauer's work focused on imagery relating to concerns about humanity, tragedy and the unpleasant aspects of life. But he shifted his focus in 2002 to images that celebrate life. A visit to the Sonoran Living Desert Museum outside of Tucson inspired him to paint the indigenous plant and animal life, especially blooming cacti:

"These cactus paintings represent a catharsis for me as an artist. The thickly applied paint expresses the energy of life and my intent to depict the cactus as portraits of celebration."

Bauer has exhibited his work around Arizona at places including the Shemer Art Center and Museum, Artlink in Phoenix, the Arizona State Capitol and the Yuma Art Center.

Bertica Garcia Dubus was born in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. She began to study art at Saint Dominic College in St. Charles, Ill., where she received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. She went on to study at the Art Institute of Chicago and has since continued to take numerous art classes after moving to Arizona in 1985. She has worked as

an illustrator and designer and has remained active in the art communities in both the United States and the Dominican Republic.

Dubus has exhibited her work extensively in the Dominican Republic and has shown locally at the Ice House in Phoenix, Scottsdale Center for the Arts and The Farm at South Mountain. She is fascinated by nature and describes her work as a reflection of the beauty of nature and the everyday world around her:

"Through the images that I bring to the canvas, I hope to share with others my delight and help them see beauty. I aim to bring the spectator into a world he or she might not have visited before, and hope that my paintings will help him or her create their own story."

The Connections Café gallery wall at the Tempe Public Library provides local artists with an opportunity to express themselves, experiment with new media and themes and realize the similarities and differences between their work and the work of other artists. The individuals in the Connections' exhibitions seem to be at a different crossroads in their artistic careers and fields of interest, yet both share some unique bond that ties them together.



Image by Bertica García Dubus



Image by Robert Bauer