## Connecting to Their World

April 6 to June 18, 2004



Tran Trong Vu, Blue

Students from Corona del Sol, Desert Vista, Marcos de Niza, McClintock and Mountain Pointe high schools worked with the Arizona State University Art Museum and were asked to create two dimensional pieces, both as a form of personal expression and as an extension of two current exhibitions at the museum.

Their art work was created after viewing Vietnamese artist Tran Trong Vu's Blue Memory: Paintings by Tran Trong Vu, an installation of 100 life-sized Asian figures painted on transparent plastic, and the late Cuban artist Pedro Alvarez's Landscape in the Fireplace: Paintings by Pedro Alvarez, which marks the first United States solo exhibition for one of the foremost contemporary

artists to emerge from Cuba. The exhibit features colorfully layered paintings that combine references to Cuban, African and American culture.

Both Alvarez and Vu make a statement about what it means to be different in today's society. These artists are not living in their native land and their work expresses the difficulty they feel when trying to be true to their own culture and to the global community. Students were inspired by these concepts to create their own work.

The exhibit is being presented by the ASU Art Museum and the city of Tempe's Cultural Services Division.

The Tempe City Hall Gallery displays community, historical, and regional art exhibitions. Conceived in June 2002, the City Hall Gallery is administered by the City of Tempe's Cultural Services Division with support from the Tempe Municipal Arts Commission in an effort to continually develop public art programs for the residents of Tempe.



Pedro Alvarez, African Abstraction