

From Tucson to Tempe: Dinnerware Gallery

March 17 - May 23, 2003
Lower Level Gallery



"Hermit" by Ann Tracy-Lopez

The city of Tempe Cultural Services Division presented an exhibition in conjunction with Tucson's Dinnerware Gallery. Featured artists were Mauricio Toussaint, Ann Tracy-Lopez and Aili Schmeltz.

Toussaint, who is originally from Mexico, believes that his life and art became more serene when he moved to Tucson and experienced the desert. His materials and colors reflect his surroundings and the reuse of elements throughout his paintings and drawings related to stories he told. In this work he uses memories from his childhood. The mixed media paintings and drawings express nostalgia for the Mexico he left behind.

Intuitive studies about daily living and the quality of "being" are the basis of **Tracy-Lopez's** work. Her series is based on seeing and expressing, and speaks to the physical process of living and personal life experiences. Some of the pieces emphasize the life process with materials that seem to be in conflict with each other, creating a sense of uneasiness between man - made and natural. Tracy-Lopez's work is primarily charcoal and oil on canvas or wood.

Schmeltz exhibits paintings and mixed media (wood, metal and cloth) sculpture that revolve around ideas of timelines and mapping. The sculptures are hybrids between natural and industrial influences that parallel human bodies and their relation to their surroundings.

Dinnerware Artists' Cooperative Gallery, est. 1979, is an art space and forum committed to the presentation of high-quality contemporary art by emerging and established artists from Tucson and the region. Dinnerware is a cornerstone of the Tucson Downtown Arts District, a vital alternative to museums and commercial galleries in that it is an artist-run and artist-directed alternative art space.