

Questor Questions about Assembled Wood Artworks



at the Tempe Center for the Arts

Name _____



Rebecca Davis and Roger Asay, *Cottonwood Sphere*



Shirley Wagner, *The Past in the Present*



LOOK at “Cottonwood Sphere” by Davis and Asay. Where do you see a small branch? Which is the thickest branch you can find? What color is the bark? Is it rough? How can you tell that the sawn surfaces have been sanded smooth? Focus on a specific branch and compare the color of the inside wood with the color of the wood closer to the bark. How many different variations of ovals can you find?

LEARN that Davis and Asay are married and have worked together making art since 1983. They live in Prescott where cottonwood trees grow in their yard. They used cottonwood branches to make “Cottonwood Sphere.” What trees grow near where you live? What sort of artwork might you assemble from branches, leaves, pinecones or other parts of trees near you?

COMPARE Roger and Rebecca’s work with Shirley Wagner’s “The Past in the Present.” Compare the colors, textures and shapes of wooden pieces the artists chose to use. How are they similar? How are they different?

INTERPRET the artworks. Roger and Rebecca: “We want to make people see familiar natural things in a fresh way, as if they’d never seen them before, so that the experience of seeing and touching these woods seems brand new and exciting.” Do you believe they succeeded? Can you think of another title for their work (or Wagner’s) that sums up its message to you?