Route 66

Aug. 17-Dec. 5 Youth Library Gallery

The historic "Route 66" Highway was established in 1926 and originally ran from Chicago to Los Angeles. It has been popularized in songs, photographs and popular culture. The highway is probably most known for the 1950s and 1960s nostalgia it represents including roadside diners, muscle cars, neon signs and family road trips. These two artists incorporated their favorite landscapes, memorabilia and personal memories about trips along the historic route.

Galleries at the Tempe Library provide art encounters that broaden the mind, relate to multiple age groups and create interest in a variety of fields and subjects. Exhibitions are meant to inspire thought, enjoyment and discussion.



Lifetime Landmarks by Kenneth Richardson

The Artist

Kenneth Richardson, of Phoenix, received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degreein 2D Design from the University of Arizona and was enrolled in a non-degree graduate program at Arizona State University. Richardson has been an assistant and studio manager to well-known Arizona artist Ed Mell since 1995. He has been a contributor to the downtown Phoenix emerging art district for the past 12 years and lives with his wife, Marnie, and children, Jack and Emma.

Most of Richardson's inspiration comes from the local inhabitants of Phoenix. He says that character is the basis for all subjects within his work. He is most interested in the stories others tell him both directly and indirectly, as skin tones and wrinkles can be said to define decisions that have been made in his subjects' lives. Because the surface detail captured from his subjects' physical appearance is crucial, Richardson has developed adoration for oil paints, which allow him to capture this detail, and he now uses them almost exclusively.