New Translations

Dec. 12 - April 23 Youth Library Gallery

About the Exhibition

Quite often, visual art is described as a form of communication between the viewer and the artist. Much like music or dance, art can sometimes relate ideas, feelings and experiences that cannot be conveyed through words. In this exhibition, the two artists are focused on the idea of communication. Both artists tell a story and ask the viewer questions through their images.



Jeff Falk - English Class

About the Artists

Jeff Falk is originally from Nebraska and moved with his family to Phoenix in 1959. As a long-time Valley resident, Falk has seen, first-hand, the growth of the city and the art scene. He has been active in the local art scene since 1984 and met his wife and fellow artist Annie Lopez through Movimiento Artistico Del Rio Salado (M.A.R.S.), an artist run cooperative in Phoenix.

Falk often works with mixed media and said that the inspiration for his work comes from his own experiences, especially those from childhood. Other influences include the post modernists of the late 1950s, early 1960s. He likes to take common objects and discarded items, such as newspapers and childhood artworks, and use them in a new

way. His art can be found in the collections of the Tucson Museum of Art, Mesa Contemporary Arts, the Shemer Art Center and Museum, the McDonald's Corporation, the Phoenix Airport Museum at Sky Harbor and more.



Sebastian Wittig - Indianizing the Civil

Sebastian Wittig, of Tempe, received an Associate's Degree in fine arts and Navajo culture from Diné College on the Navajo Nation as well as Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees in intermedia from Arizona State University (ASU.) He has taught art at Scottsdale Community College, Diné College and at ASU.

Wittig's work is about propaganda. In the works, he presents easily recognizable icons and logos of modern commercialism and corporate businesses with Navajo language incorporated into the logos.

Wittig said, "What role, if any, does the Navajo language, or any indigenous language of the United States play in modern life? To what extent could or should it be used for commercial purposes? Those who understand the language will find some of the translations awkward or comical. At the same time, those without that knowledge will be reminded of the extent to which the imagery is burnt into their minds and how recognizable it is even beyond the language-barrier."