



Storytellers

Dec. 5 – April 8

Stephanie Peters, Camp Verde

Peters is a mixed media artist from the Baltimore-Washington D.C. area. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in studio art and art history from the University of Arizona in 2009. Today she splits her time between being an artist and a community and environmental activist.

Peters says of her work, *“This series was created from discarded books published between 1906 and 1965. Most were best sellers in their published year and some*

were turned into major motion pictures. But with a lack of recognition among today’s generation, the once famous books faded from popular culture. I found them in free bins at local libraries. This series gives new life to these novels. Each drawing represents the book in subject or context and is titled after the book. I began by reading each book, then tore pages out, collaged and sealed them onto hardboard and finally created a charcoal drawing on top. These charcoal drawings allude to the ephemeral fragility of art.”

Peters says of the artist pairing for the Connections Café exhibition: *“Zane Gutierrez creates layered oil paintings filled with spontaneous expression, color and lines. His own experiences and memories inspire his work, whereas I draw from existing stories that are not my own. My work is similar to Gutierrez’s, however, in that we create our narratives on found materials, repurposing them as surfaces for new works of art and giving new life to discarded items.”*

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Zane Gutierrez, Tempe

Gutierrez was born in Tucson Arizona in 1989. He worked an apprentice under the painter Matthias Duval for five years. He says that art was not a part of his family’s background having grown up on a ranch in Marana, AZ. He’s also worked in construction since he was old enough to lift a shovel. By day Gutierrez is a maintenance technician at an apartment complex and keeps busy doing a variety of tasks. His hands-on background has also led him to find purpose for objects he finds to use in his own artwork.

Gutierrez discusses his artwork, *“We don’t notice the little things anymore. It seems that so much beauty is*

taken for granted and replaced with iconic media, pop culture and soliciting rhetoric in my generation. But I see every building as beautiful, from every angle. Through paint, I am able to recreate the human perspective of these design features, representing these subjects as I see them. With my art, I want to show my audience everything that I have seen, felt or tasted.”

Gutierrez says of the comparison of his work: *“Ms. Peters and I both rescue and reuse discarded items in our work. I rescue, quite plainly, trash. Refuse that would have otherwise occupied a landfill or gutter, I find resurrected beauty in and incorporate into my work. Stephanie Peters resurrects lost stories, novels once loved now discarded. She uses the actual pages of the story to canvas an image of an aspect of the tale within. However different our motives and processes, Peters and I are both trying to help ourselves remember and possibly re-establish the value of what we have discarded.”*