

Structural Discord

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Artists Karen Jilly and Jonathan Howard share a love for depicting urban architectural scenes and structural images in deserted areas. Both artists spend a lot of time outside observing people, architecture and the natural environment. They both use their own photographs of places and observations to serve as references back in their studios.

There are also subtle differences between each artist's artistic styles and themes. Jilly's work tends to be more expressionistic and devoid of figures. Howard's work is more realistic and figurative (includes people). Jilly sees her work as a metaphor for the passage of time, space and history. Howard sees his work as capturing the ephemeral quality of life from just a fleeting moment.



Somewhere I, Karen Jilly

Karen Jilly, Paradise Valley

Jilly received a Bachelor of Arts in design from the University of California, Los Angeles and completed additional studies in painting and drawing at California State University, Long Beach. Jilly's work is included in a number of museum and corporate collections in Arizona and California, and she has served on the executive board of directors for art institutions in both states. Jilly currently splits her time between Paradise Valley and Los Angeles.

Jilly says of her work in this exhibition, *"My series titled 'Somewhere,' marks an unusual departure from my typical urban landscape themed work. While touring a construction site for an uncompleted theater, I was drawn to an odd corner that contained a spiral staircase that appeared to go nowhere. To get to the staircase, there was a tall ladder propped up on the wall, and the only light in the huge space came from an odd little square window behind the spiraling staircase. The scenario made no sense to me, yet was so captivating, I felt compelled to depict this unique interior."*

Jilly and Howard met for coffee a couple of months ago to discuss this exhibition and found a similar love of music, Jilly said *"We discovered through our chatting that we also both employ a similar ritual while working. Both of us create a sound track to each work or series. Certain musicians, groups and/or songs help us connect to the feeling that we want to portray in a given piece."*

Jonathan Howard, Phoenix

An Arizona native, Howard spent his early childhood in the Phoenix area before his family moved his sixth grade year. During this period he lived in Hawaii, California and New Mexico before returning to the valley. He attended Scottsdale Community College and transferred to Arizona State University to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting. Howard is currently represented by Modified Arts in Phoenix, Lanning Gallery in Sedona and Abend Gallery in Denver.

Of his work in this exhibition, Howard says, *"My urban cityscapes address our temporal existence: they represent the material world and all that is worldly while relating to or being limited by time. Each day the city is transformed with the influx of the people that flow through. The scenes I depict are merely millisecond moments within one's life that often times aren't given much consideration in our haste to get from point A to point B."*

The invention of the digital camera and its usage has influenced my work greatly. Many of the shots that become drawings or paintings are truly the result of being able to walk city streets and take photos without worrying about getting the perfect shot. I have even created work based off of accidental shots. I use Photoshop as a sketching tool, combining photos and sketches together. I like the level of naturalism I achieve in my drawings and feel that my photography trips provide me with a connection to the cities I paint that I wouldn't have otherwise."

www.jonathanhowardart.com



The Long Way Home,
Jonathan Howard

Both artists can be seen in the *Green and Gray* exhibition at the Gallery at Tempe Center for the Arts through Jan. 2.