

It's a Small World

Jan. 11 - April 9, 2008

Connections Café



The Loft by Keith Stanton



Cerealism – shredded wheat bales
by Ernie Button

Connections Café hours

9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday-Thursday
9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Friday-Saturday
Noon to 5:30 p.m., Sunday
(Closed on city-observed holidays)

This exhibition features the work of Keith Stanton and Ernie Button, who bring miniature toys to life in their expressive photographs.

Keith Stanton resides in Mesa and has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Intermedia from Arizona State University. He studied Display and Exhibit Design at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City. The art of display is evident in his works, arranged from bits and pieces of thrift store items that make up his subject matter. "This adds an additional layer of filtration to my process," Stanton said. "I need to discover the subject in a secondary market dependent upon the disposal of others. I am recognizing the untold history between the toy designers and the consumers who outgrew their creations."

Stanton uses a macro lens that allows him to present small objects to the same scale as snapshots "of the family picnic" and enjoys emphasizing suburban culture. Stanton's works have been featured recently at the Phoenix Airport Museum gallery, Art One Gallery in Tempe and the Gilbert Southeast Regional Library.

Ernie Button is a Phoenix-based artist who has shown artwork across the valley with recent exhibitions at the Mesa Contemporary Arts Center and the Bentley Projects, and at different venues across the United States. In the past several years, he has been awarded grants from *Desert Living* magazine and the Arizona Commission on the Arts and received rave reviews for his shows in local publications such as *The Arizona Republic* and *Phoenix Magazine*. Button has a Master of Arts degree from Arizona State University, yet, in regards, to his photography, he is almost completely self-taught. For the Connections Café exhibit, *It's a Small World*, Button's photographic series, *Cerealism*, shows off a playful side of the more "adult" cereals.

"Many of the cereals are vibrantly colored or made to resemble people and objects as if they are calling out to have their portraits taken...to be the center of attention," Button said. "I began to construct landscapes that would utilize the natural earth tones of these cereals. I placed enlarged photographs of actual Arizona skies in the background of the cereal landscapes giving the final image an odd sense of 'reality.' It quickly became apparent that cereal is not just for breakfast anymore. Cereal has evolved into cultural pop objects instead of just corn pops.