



Tuesday, July 14, 2009

Contact: George Palovich  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**“Adventure In Invention” The Art of Tom Herbert  
December 19, 2008 through March 15, 2009**

An exhibition of striking imagery opens December 19 at West Valley Art Museum in Surprise. Curator, George Palovich says of the exhibition: “Adventure in Invention” explores a relatively new medium and its potential as an expressive vehicle for artists with a sense of the surreal. Herbert’s work falls easily into that category but the images border on the romantic as much as they do their dream-like content. Animals take on personages and a sense of foreboding as they are engulfed in environments made up of paint that is poured, scraped, dribbled and blotted Rorschach-like to create visions of a world beyond reality. The syrupy medium lends itself to this kind of treatment and Herbert plays it for all its worth. The experiment is entirely successful, giving us art that emotionally connects with the viewer and gives pause for reflection.”

Tom grew up in Sulfur Springs Valley, Arizona, and Douglas, Arizona, and attended elementary and high schools in Douglas. After serving in the U. S. Army for a short tour of duty he continued his education in Flagstaff, Arizona (N.A.U) receiving a B.S. in education and subsequently an M.A in art education. Teaching high school art for 31 years at Cortez High School in Phoenix, Tom attended an art teacher's honors convocation at Rhode Island School of Design and later received a summer fellowship to study bronze casting and printmaking there. Other studies at Arizona State University, University of Arizona, Seattle Art Institute, Colorado Institute of Art, and Savannah College of Art and Design in the summers broadened and honed his artistic skills. He became one of the first art teachers in the nation to teach advanced placement art (to four schools) through the use of interactive television.

Of his life and work Tom says: “I have lived in Arizona all of my life, and I am attracted to the forms, animals and environments indigenous to the west. I continue to live in, and be influenced by, the desert, enjoying its wide horizons, deep canyons, and incredible mountains. Sometimes I begin my paintings with a preconceived idea, but most of the time I lay down a mono print, find the shapes that fuel my vision, then render the painting by subtracting and adding color as needed. The use of Createx Pure Pigments and a special paper is important because it allows me to impart an illuminated, ethereal, transparent feeling to my compositions.”

West Valley Art Museum is open 10 AM to 4 PM Tuesday through Sunday. The Museum is located at West Bell Road and 114th Avenue. With nine exhibition galleries, a Museum Store, and regularly scheduled education programs, the Museum welcomes all visitors. There is an admission charge for non-members. \$7 adults, \$2 students, ages 5 and under are free.



# WEST VALLEY ART MUSEUM

17420 N. Avenue of the Arts  
Surprise, AZ 85374



"Mountain Image" pure pigments 40"  
x 30" by Tom Herbert



"Tapping At My Door" pure pigments 38" x 46" by Tom Herbert



Tom Herbert



"Not A Flower  
Child" pure  
pigments 28" x 36"  
by Tom Herbert

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