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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**“Digital Retrospection: A Dozen Years of Photography”
The photographs of Joseph Labate
September 12 through December 14, 2008**

West Valley Art Museum, during September, October, and November will host the work of photographer Joseph Labate in the Jensen Wing Gallery.

Joseph Labate is the Chair of the Photography Division in the School of Art at the University of Arizona. Labate’s artwork and his teaching focus on the use of digital technology as applied to the medium of photography. He has a B.S. in engineering from Clarkson University, a B.F.A. in photography from Massachusetts College of Art, and an M.F.A. in photography from the University of Arizona.

Labate is a recipient of a Visual Arts Fellowship from the Arizona Commission on the Arts, an Artist’s Grant from the Contemporary Forum of the Phoenix Art Museum, and an Artist’s Grant from Polaroid of Tokyo, Japan. He has exhibited and taught photography nationally and internationally. His work is in many private and public collections including the Center for Creative Photography, the Tucson Museum of Art, the Snell Wilmer Collection, the Streitch Lang Collection, the Weeks Gallery and Roussenski Lom National Park in Bulgaria.

In talking about his journey through photography, Labate says: “I learned and practiced photography in the era before the introduction of photographic digital technology. I exposed film in a camera and then proceeded to my darkroom to develop the film and make prints. I studied the art of photography at university programs learning theory and critical thinking based on the medium as we then understood it. I immersed myself in that world and as an artist, was challenged to explore its potential. Then along came PhotoShop. A few years ago, after long and serious deliberation, I closed down my darkroom and sold my darkroom equipment. I replaced the darkroom with a computer, software, inkjet printer, and various other new digital wonders and set off to explore their impact on my practice of photography. I am fortunate to have a history with chemical darkroom photography and now have available to me this new digital technology. I have a foot in both worlds.

I am most interested in that space between the traditional definition of photography and the imagery of the newly emerging digital arts. I am not trying to replicate traditional photography with the now available digital tools but yet am trying to maintain some connection to it. My work draws on both the history and practice of traditional photography and the language of the new technologies.”

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, *Café On The Avenue*, 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.



"Little Man" digital photograph



"Tucson #2102558" digital photograph



Joseph Labate

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