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Thursday, April 26, 2007

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**“Industrial Tribalism”
Works in mixed media by Dave Kowalski
May 25 through September 16, 2007**

On May 25, 2007 an exhibition of Native American influenced sculpture entitled “Industrial Tribalism” will open at West Valley Art Museum. Fargo, ND native David “Bugs” Kowalski, now living in Peoria, AZ, received his Native American influences when his family moved to the Colville/Nez Pierce Indian Reservation in Eastern Washington. It shaped his awareness of natural surroundings and the beauty of Nez Pierce’s tribal craftworks continue to inspire him today.

As a member of the US Air Force Kowalski traveled extensively and after fulfilling his commitment in 1969, he moved back to Europe and lived in the small town of Soest, Holland. As a participant in the local Artist’s Guild working with basic art forms, photography, and gemology, he began to evolve the shape and style of his present work.

Moving to Arizona completed the fusion of industrial elements to the Native American influences and Bugs tribal work began to attract the attention of galleries and patrons.

Bugs incorporated leather, gemstones, stone, pen and ink, silver, bone, bead, feather and wood into a new element: rusted steel. The resulting works resonate with vibrations of ancient cultures and the expression of contemporary industrial societies. That major portions of these constructs are made up of man made throwaways is no small part of what the artist is saying about the environment and the impact we have on it. It may be, as well, that we worship new idols and totems in the same way the fetish served a purpose in older cultures. Our attachment to our “things” has taken on proportions akin to the spiritual attachments to ancestral artifacts. Kowalski certainly gives us food for thought.

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 five exhibition galleries, a Museum Store, *Classic Café*, 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.



“Lamp” mixed media by Dave Kowalski



“Quills” mixed media by Dave Kowalski



“Soldier” mixed media by Dave Kowalski



Dave Kowalski

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