

Penny for Your Thoughts

Aug. 24, 2012-Jan. 3, 2013

To honor the Arizona Centennial, “Penny for Your Thoughts” features works that relate in some way to one of the “5 C’s” of Arizona—copper. In honor of this useful and highly sought-after metal, this exhibition features artwork made from copper, about copper and/or inspired by copper.

Arizona is known as “The Copper State” because copper is so important to our economy. Arizona has a wealth of minerals, and we produce more copper than any other state, accounting for two thirds of the nation’s output. Copper is extensively mined from many large open-pit and underground mines, and its importance is reflected on our State flag by the copper star in the middle.

About the Artists

Emily Costello is a self-taught artist and was born and raised in the Southwest. She graduated with a Bachelor’s of Fine Arts degree in Graphic Design; however, after graduating, she decided not to pursue a career in the arts. Instead, she began working in the business field, and today she is a Human Resources director. Several years ago, she took a weekend painting class that sparked her creative side, and she has been painting ever since. Costello is a member of the Phoenix Fridas, an artist collective that celebrates and indulges in the Chicano craft experience. She finds inspiration for her art from her Mexican heritage and its cultural icons and images.

“I am irresistibly attracted to the curious and bizarre which compels me to paint images that amuse me and intrigue me. Pushing, pulling, playing and layering paint with brushes and my hands is the foundation of my art.”

William Lesch received a Bachelor’s of Fine Arts degree in Photography from the University of Arizona. While pursuing his degree, he became the first staff photographer at the Center for Creative Photography in Tucson, where he had his first solo exhibition in 1979. Since, Lesch’s works have been displayed in museums and collections across the country, including the Los Angeles Museum of Art, the Tucson Museum of Art and the Sky Harbor Collection. His desert color photography was featured in a 60-page monograph printed by *Treville Press* in conjunction with an exhibit in Japan. Lesch has been the recipient of several awards and



Raymine Pan Print by William Lesch

grants, including an artist grant from the Arizona Commission on the Arts and two project grants from the city of Tempe. Along with creating film prints, Lesch is involved with scanning and digital printmaking.

“Weather and season have always played a large part in my work, and two inter-related series extend this involvement with the forces of nature. For the past several years, I have been working during the summer monsoon season in Tucson on an extended series of time exposures of developing thunderstorms. I have also been working every August since 2001 along the Northern California coast on a long term series photographing waves.”

Graduate and advanced students from the [Arizona State University School of Art](#) created larger experimental and mixed media work. Among the experimental works are:

“Dogon Fading” by Alvin Huff
“Contained Formations” by Joseph Wullner
“Wishing Well” by Thad Trubakoff
“Ancient Warfare” by Dannon Shroeder
“Copper Vessel” by Nikki Olive

The introductory students focused on a making a grouping of small copper medallions and vessels with Arizona-related themes.

Additional artists in the exhibition are Vanessa Hope Windes, Kyle Blalock, Michael Bortfeld, Kristina Ricci, Michael Bortfeld and Donny Stafford. Foundry Professor Mary Neubauer and Graduate Teaching Assistant Samuel Troxell, now an instructor at Mesa Center for the Arts, also have representative works in the display.