## Light and Surface Feb. 6-May 6, 2009 Connections Café



Bed IV by Tourya Othman



Through the Doorway by Ira Thomas

Light is the essential element in the works of Ira Thomas, of Phoenix, and Toura Othman, of Scottsdale. Patrons may see a striking contrast in the use of light between the two artists. Likewise, Othman uses color and seems to evoke emotion. Thomas' work is grounded in recognizable elements found in nature or fabricated by man; Othman's work is released from physical reality and through surrealistic imagery, creates powerful ethereal, unstructured shapes and motion that challenge the imagination. While different, both come back to light, or the absence of it, as the fundamental tool of expression.

## About the artists

Ira Thomas is a Yale University graduate who ran his own public relations business for many years. His work seeks to simply display or mildly manipulate "recognizable elements found in nature or fabricated by man." His works highlight the way light and shadow can affect an otherwise every day image.

Tourya Othman was born in Tangiers, Africa. She earned one degree in sculpture and another in art history and anatomy in universities in Belgium. She now splits her time living in Marrakech, Morocco, and in Scottsdale. For several years, she worked in advertising as a creative director for leading agencies



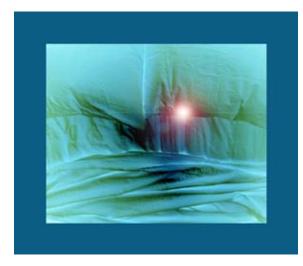
Antelope by Ira Thomas

in Europe, South East Asia, Singapore and Thailand. In the late 1990s she decided to focus on solely on art and began exploring techniques in various media. Today, she explores

film, digital photog-

raphy, painting, bronze sculpture and more. Her work in the "Digital Age" exhibition is influenced by each of these art-making processes. Her style repeats itself within each medium. Othman's work can be seen in collections across America, Africa and Europe, and she has approaching solo exhibitions at the Art Event at DC Gainey Ranch and The Florence Biennial 2009.

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)



Bed 93 by Tourya Othman