

I Wanna be a Cowboy

Sept. 5 - Jan. 7, 2009

The Post Office window artwork often has a light-hearted and amusing theme that explores the wackier side of life. In “I Wanna Be a Cowboy,” the artists explore dreams of childhood nostalgia, the American West and contemporary satire.

To some, the stereotypical cowboy artist might be someone who paints beautiful western landscapes, filled with perfect cacti, mountainous terrain and a “Marlborough Man” type cowboy riding his horse into the colorful sunset. The two artists in this exhibition break down that stereotype while still honoring the western spirit. Keith Stanton’s work shows an idealistic sprawling suburbia as if seen through a television screen. Like many Americans, he says he learned about the Wild West through TV shows and popular media. Jeff Falk’s work is a collective of ideas inspired by the items he finds in junk yards and toy shops in the Phoenix area. Both artists’ work appeals to both children and adults alike.

Jeff Falk experiments with different types of mixed media in his artworks that are “at hand” around his studio: collage, glue, paper, wood, various assemblage/construction and canvas. He describes his art as having “many levels” and that “part of it is narrative in nature.” Falk enjoys exploring different issues and elements that exist in the world.

In I Wanna Be a Cowboy, Falk’s pieces evoke a sense of childhood nostalgia: “My work tends to be about aspects of childhood...but childhood as a mythical place like The Island of Lost Boys or Never Never Land. I try to keep my images simple—referencing the innocent way of seeing the world when we were children.”

Keith Stanton resides in Mesa and has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Intermedia from Arizona State University. He studied Display and Exhibit Design at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City. The art of display is evident in his works, arranged from bits and pieces of thrift store items that make up his subject matter.

Stanton uses a macro lens that allows him to present small objects to the same scale as snapshots and enjoys emphasizing suburban culture. Stanton’s works have been featured recently at the Phoenix Airport Museum gallery, Art One Gallery in Tempe and the Gilbert Southeast Regional Library.



Keith Stanton, “Horse”

Exhibitions at the United States Post Office highlight local artists working in a variety of media and themes. Space is located in the heart of the Mill Avenue district. Special emphasis is placed on work that is fun, eye-catching and unusual.