

Art in a Box.....Recycled Art History: An art installation from Desert Vista High School

April 22, 2003

Tempe Center for the Arts



Desert Vista High School art students presented a one-day temporary art installation for the Tempe Center for the Arts' Ground Opening on April 22, 2003. The life of this art installation was extended and was displayed at the Public Library's Second Floor Gallery.



Mario Mendia, Desert Vista High School Visual arts teacher, worked with art students on this project in collaboration with

the city of Tempe Cultural Services Division.



Mendia asked students to explore and investigate art history, creating a self-standing art installation constructed primarily from recycled cardboard, cardboard boxes and cardboard tubing. The assorted cardboard art "masterpieces" are visually connected with life size genre charcoal portraits, which emphasize the concept of using recycling materials as well as recycling ideas about art and art history.



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Ideas related to perception and clothing, stance and appearance were also studied in relationship to the human figure.

"The class is discipline based. Every assignment is centered on art history, culture, aesthetics, art criticism and ultimately studio production," Mendia said. "This project, however, was created with the three C's. What is the artwork's concept? What context is the work being used in? What content is included in the work?"

Utilizing different historical artworks, the students based their creations on the relationships among these elements.