



# Tempe Public Art

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## ***Sonoran Afternoon***

Bud Heiss

Acrylic Paint

2012

**Location:** Northwest corner of  
4<sup>th</sup> Street and Mill Avenue

**Artist Website:** [www.budheiss.com](http://www.budheiss.com)

**Description:** The landscape that begins on the east-facing side of *Sonoran Afternoon* and continues on north-facing side is a scene from the Boyce Thompson Arboretum in Superior, Arizona. This scene was chosen because of the unusual composition and the way the light falls on the rock formations. The landscape on the west-facing side is of Picket Post Mountain, also within the Boyce Thompson Arboretum. The goal was to create a scene in which the viewer is looking almost directly into the morning sun. The landscape on the south-facing side is of the Grand Canyon's South Rim. It shows the late afternoon haze that is often seen in that area.

**Artist biography:** Heiss was raised in a small town in Nebraska. He studied at the Kansas City Art Institute, earned his Bachelor of Fine Art degree at the University of Nebraska and later studied pastel at the Loveland Academy of Fine Art in Colorado. He currently lives in Gilbert. Most of Heiss' paintings depict scenes in early morning or late afternoon when the light appears warm and shadows are moving quickly. Because he prefers to paint these fleeting moments he usually works from photographs he has taken. His photos are only a point of departure, however. Every painting takes on a life of its own, often going far beyond the original inspiration. He describes his painting style as Impressionistic Realism. From a distance his work looks very realistic; then, as the viewer approaches the painting, he or she will see various brushstrokes and many that are very loosely applied. Heiss' paintings have received many awards at the national and regional levels of competition. Though he works primarily in acrylics and casein, he has, in national competitive shows, won awards in watercolor, pastel, oil and acrylic. His work is included in many private and corporate collections, and he was a previous signature member in the National Oil and Acrylic Painters Society and the National Acrylic Painters Association.

**Funding:** The project was funded through the city of Tempe Municipal Arts Fund and Downtown Tempe Community.