

UPCOMING GROUP SHOW

Up to 30 works

Nov. 1-Dec. 12, 2013Visions West Gallery
1715 Wazee Street
Denver, CO 80202
(303) 292-0909**SHOW LOCATION DENVER, CO****TRACY STUCKEY AND
BALE CREEK ALLEN***Refashioned fables*

Sculptor **Bale Creek Allen** grew up in California while painter **Tracy Stuckey** grew up in Florida. Both men will meet for the first time in Colorado at the opening of their two-person show, *Refashioned Fables: Icons and Tribes of the Disbanded West*, at Visions West Gallery.

Each artist's reflections on the American West are personal yet universal, iconic yet ironic. Stuckey's interpretation of historian Michael Johnson's "Ralphlaurenization" of the iconic West and its characters makes for seriously satirical images. Likewise, Allen takes discarded icons of the West—such as the tumbleweed—and places the re-imagined bronze objects on a pedestal.

"It will be an interesting combination," notes Allen. "...The absurdities of both our work and coming from similar backgrounds in terms of music, which is important to me as a medium."

"Obviously our work is very different, but I feel like they will fit together well," adds Stuckey, who found the music of Bale's dad, Terry Allen, to be a big inspiration in the early paintings of this series.

Stuckey, who didn't visit the West until he was in his early 20s, got most of his romanticized ideas about the West from watching Western films and advertising and fashion.

"That being said, the true history of the West exposes how much we have romanticized this place and all its iconography," remarks Stuckey. "In my paintings I try to use a lot of the classic iconography and imagery of the region, but at the same time try to expose some of the exaggerations that have given us this romanticized idea of the place and its characters. I like to think about what the region is like today. I try to reference how we still use these romantic notions of the West in advertising and fashion."



Tracy Stuckey, *Red Rocket Rider*, oil on canvas, 45 x 66"



Bale Creek Allen, *Tumbleweed*, bronze, 30 x 30 x 20"

The Gallery Says...

"Both of these artists' works challenge the notion of a single reality of life in the American West and demonstrate a clear departure from the retrospective view of Western art which we have become accustomed to. Grappling with the contemporary reality and the myth of the West, they are creating compelling and interesting pieces that open a new dialogue about the place we call the West."


*—Nikki Todd, owner,
Visions West Gallery*



Tracy Stuckey, *El Camino Target Practice*, colored pencil on paper, 30 x 22"

Allen's work speaks to the open road and the debris found alongside it. During the summers of his youth he took trips from Fresno, California, to Lubbock, Texas. He found the open road uninhibited—even hypnotic—allowing him to mentally check out.

"I'm strongly influenced by the road in particular," says Allen. "I like taking an object that was something that became dead and give it life again, like a tumbleweed...I deconstruct it and then reconstruct it in bronze and give it a third life."

Accompanying Allen's one-of-a-kind bronze works, which he creates using lost-wax casting, will be large black-and-white photographs of found objects on the highway as well as color digital prints. 



Bale Creek Allen, *Gold Nest*, bronze and electroplated 24k gold, glass egg, 9 x 8 x 3"