

It's ALIVE

M O N S T E R S S T O R I E S II

In conjunction with the *Monster Stories* exhibition at the Gallery at Tempe Center for the Arts sponsored by Northern Trust, this satellite display explores monsters in popular culture, technology, mythology and the idea of the “other” in society. The installations celebrate this special niche within the science fiction genre through different media including printmaking, painting, costume design and ceramics.

These exhibitions also celebrate 2018 as the 200th anniversary of the groundbreaking novel, *Frankenstein*, by Mary Shelley. A timeless story that continues to spark relevant discussions about science, technology and humanity.

Tempe Galleries and the Gallery at TCA thank artists Manny Burruel, Bobby Zokaites and Mario Munguia Jr. for helping make this exhibition possible.



Image by Manny Burruel



Manny Burrue, Phoenix

Burrue grew up in West Phoenix and studied art at Glendale Community College. His artwork subject matter is often autobiographical and he uses familiar imagery to represent his experiences and memories.

Burrue recalls that his fascination with the monster genre stems from growing up watching science fiction, horror and classic monster movies. He says, *"My mom loved scary movies and we would watch them together. Many of the old monsters like Frankenstein, The Creature and King Kong were tragic characters. My mom would teach me to understand the monsters' points of view."*

Like many kids who grew up watching movies and TV shows about action and adventure, Burrue was especially captivated by stories that involved heroism. His imagination flourished with dreams of becoming a hero like Sinbad the Sailor or the Greek hero Jason battling monsters like Cyclopes or Hydra. Burrue says, *"The scariest monsters were the aliens in 'War of the Worlds.' I remember in one scene, a priest is approaching the alien spaceship holding a bible, and as he is reciting the Psalm, 'The Lord is my shepherd...' then, blammo! He is disintegrated! Even if I was a good Catholic boy, I was afraid they were going to kill me."*

mannysartgallery.com

Image on page one: *Do You Want a Piece of Me?*, monosilkscreen

Image Above: *Godzilla in Space*, monosilkscreen



Bobby Zokaites, Tempe

Zokaites grew up in Christiansburg, Virginia and went on to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the New York State College in ceramics and a Master of Fine Arts degree in sculpture from Arizona State University. His background includes experience creating small and large-scale artworks such as local public art projects for the Scottsdale Arts Festival, Mesa Spark Festival and InFlux in Gilbert. His current projects include three new sculptures at stops on the new light rail expansion in Tempe and a community greenspace revitalization project in Maryvale.

Zokaites is enthusiastic about art as playful and adventurous. His Roomba paintings grew out of a self-portrait project while still in school. Instead of trying to paint himself, Zokaites approached the project as a portrait of a generation who grew up on the cusp of the internet. He also referred to his experiences he gained from his high school robotics team. The end product was a unique self-portrait performance piece that included a modified Roomba vacuum that he used to create a painting. Not surprisingly, his robot-aided paintings have been popular ever since and given him opportunities to do commissioned projects for I-Robot Corporate Headquarters and ASU's Center for Science and the Imagination. The ASU project also led to a video segment on PBS's Art Beat Nation which can be viewed on YouTube.

"If you look my work as a painting, and you look at the robot as a tool, then you need to control your tool—because that's what artists do—they have a significant understanding of the brush. My challenge is getting my control back from the robot, like color, size of the paintbrush and direction." Zokaites' paintings push on the question of who is in control when we use technology. With further advancement of AI and our lives being intertwined with electronic devices the question must be asked do we control the robot or does the robot control us?

bobbyzokaites.com

Image: *Roomba Painting #8*, acrylic on canvas



Mario Munguia Jr

Mario Munguia Jr. was raised in Paris, Texas and graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at The University of Texas at Tyler in 2016 and is currently a Master of Fine Arts candidate at Arizona State University. Munguia's work has been featured nationally in venues such as San Diego State University, Great Plains Juried Art Exhibition at Southeastern Oklahoma State University and as a resident at the C.R.E.T.A Ceramic Residency in Rome, Italy. Munguia is also an avid action figure collector. His collection currently contains more than 1,500 figures most of which are superheroes, wrestlers, video game characters, movie icons and childhood toys.

Munguia's work is inspired by ancient and contemporary popular culture mythologies and characters. He also explores the connections between how people perceive each other as opposed to how they interact with one another.

Image: *Destroyer*, ceramics