

Gallery at UTA holds reception for Harry Geffert, Chuck Ramirez exhibit

Artists stay up late painting in the middle of the night, drinking wine and then sleeping all day to recover from the experience.

Right?

Artists themselves can debunk that myth, said Benito Huerta, Gallery at UTA curator.

“When the artist talks about the process a little bit, or about their ideas, it really helps the audience understand how the process of making art works,” he said. “It demystifies the idea that making art is this magical process.”

The Gallery at UTA will host a new session of Gallery Talk on Friday for its latest exhibit featuring Harry Geffert and Chuck Ramirez.

The reception begins with gallery talk, during which Huerta will discuss the show, talk about the work of the deceased artist Chuck Ramirez and ask Geffert to speak about his work and how it was created.

Some student artists agree that the art process is structured. Visual communications junior Drew Collins said his process of creating is comparable to that of writing a paper.

“The necessary first step is the equivalent of a rough draft,” Collins said. “It’s basically sketching.”

Geffert said his process is a combination of linear logic and creativity.

“There’s two ways that people work or think,” he said. “One is logic, that two plus two is four. In my art, I use the learned logic, but the drive comes from trying to understand your sense, how you’re feeling about things, how you’re feeling about life and nature and all that stuff.”

Geffert portrays primarily landscapes and other forms of nature in his work.

“I was born and raised in the country,” he said. “I lived with nature when I was a kid; not with the grocery store.”

Some of Ramirez’s art, on the other hand, deals with consumerism. One of his pieces is in the shape of a Godiva box, all the chocolates are removed from it.

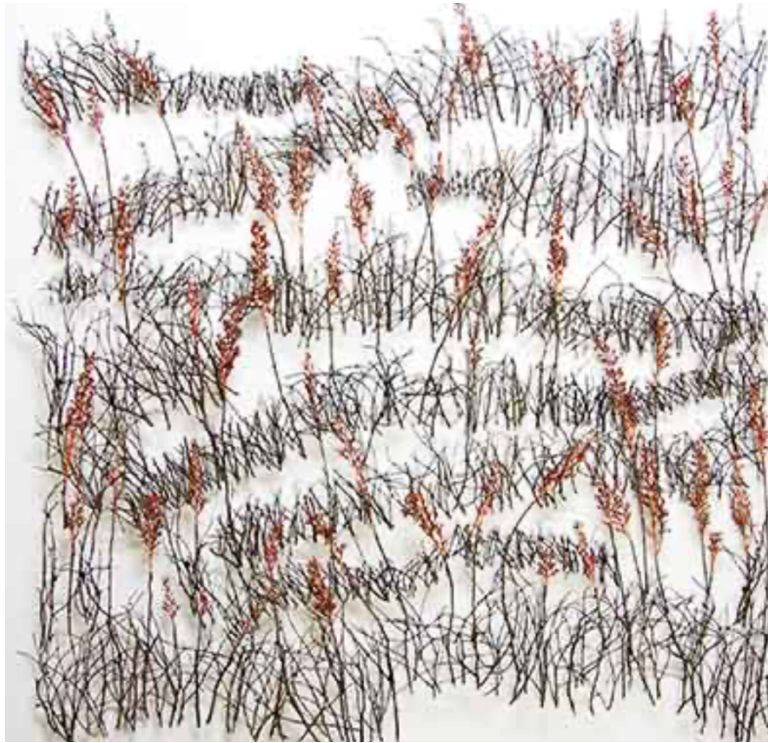
“It’s already been consumed,” Huerta said. “This is what you have left. It’s the remnants of what was once there.”

Although the exhibit contains mostly sculptures, there are some two-dimensional pieces as well.

The exhibit features a piece that is simply two photographs of trash bags – one white and one black. The outside of the full trash bags resembles a sculpture, Huerta said.

Regardless of the subject matter, many artists feel that creating art is something they must do, something they simply are.

“If you have the choice between doing art and doing something else, do something else,” Geffert said. “I don’t think I had a choice.”



Harry Geffert, *Switchback*, 2011, cast bronze and powder coat, 43" x 2"



Chuck Ramirez, *Godiva 1*, 2002, pigment ink print, 60" x 78"