

eric firestone gallery

For Immediate Release

Michael Cajero's *Wild Kingdom*

Eric Firestone Gallery - downtown exhibition space
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May 1 – June 13, 2009

Artist Reception: Friday, May 1, 6:00-10:00pm



Eric Firestone Gallery is pleased to announce the exhibit **Michael Cajero's *Wild Kingdom***. The exhibit will focus on the colorful papier-mâché animals Cajero has recently created. Various creatures, primarily dogs, cats and birds, have been brought together by the artist in an installation that can be viewed as a contemporary reworking of the Post Impressionist masterpiece *The Sleeping Gypsy* by Henri Rousseau. All the sculptural elements work with each other in surreal ways and speak of the age-old connections and interactions of man and beast. Exotically patterned gift-wrap, corrugated cardboard, and shredded document paper culled from waste receptacles are Cajero's primary medium. These cast-off materials, heightened with acrylic paint, become the flesh, hair and fabric that cover skeletons of thick, yet easily bendable aluminum wire. Each animal is amazingly executed; Cajero's innate understanding of the natural world is linked directly to the heart of each sculpture revealing the ancient wisdom possessed by each creature. For those familiar with Cajero's work ***Wild Kingdom*** will prove his most serene exploration of the human condition. For those new to Cajero's work ***Wild Kingdom*** will be a wonderfully captivating introduction to the moody and meditative world of one of the region's most unique, prolific and critically acclaimed artists.

Michael Cajero was born in Tucson, AZ in 1947, he holds a BFA from the University of Arizona and an MFA in Painting, Sculpture and Art History from Kent State University. Cajero has been the recipient of Visual Arts Fellowships from the Tucson Pima Arts Council in 1994 and 2001 and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in 1993-1994; his papier-mâché works are in the permanent collections of the Museum at Texas Tech, the Tucson Museum of Art and the Phoenix Art Museum.

For complete information as well as images, please contact Eric Firestone Gallery: 520-577-7711 efg@ericfirestonegallery.com



top: Yawning Dog papier-mâché 16h x 22w x 7d inches 2009
bottom: Silver Cat papier-mâché 23h x 34w x 12d inches 2009

MAIN GALLERY

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DOWNTOWN EXHIBIT SPACE

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