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Tempe Marketplace blends environment with art

Brittany S. Moss
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Students from all over the Valley are working on “green” sculptures made out of recyclable materials to display at Tempe Marketplace’s Art One Gallery.

Janet Blume, fine arts coordinator for the Scottsdale Unified School District, has been working with the gallery’s owner, Kraig Foote, a Coronado High School graduate, in bringing student artwork to Tempe.

The gallery is showing students’ artwork in its 8,000-square-foot exhibit space at the Tempe Marketplace, at Rio Salado Parkway between McClintock Drive and Loop 101.

The gallery was asked to show at least three sculptures that were made out of recycled materials, Foote said.

“The kids are working with natural environmental objects and finding alternative uses for them,” she said. “Desert Mountain High School has created a sculpture made out of old paper shopping bags dyed with Kool-Aid and weaved into pots.”

The gallery is working constantly on getting new schools involved from all over the state, Blume said.

Tempe Marketplace and Art One Gallery’s grand opening was Sept. 28. The shopping center had more than 4,000 visitors its first night.

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Art One Gallery is a nonprofit organization that was asked to bring a community gallery to the Tempe Marketplace.

The gallery is showing student artwork from elementary through high school levels.

“We want to create a family-friendly environment for the students and their parents,” Foote said.

The students have been displaying mixed-media artwork that they made in art classes.

Blume said the gallery is working on displaying more 2- and 3-D artwork and is looking to bring in small performing groups for exhibit openings.

Foote also works with students to develop portfolios and give them internships with the gallery.

Andy Ziskis, who works at the Art One Gallery, said the artwork the kids bring in is quite interesting.

“The kids made a huge recycled wood sculpture of wood blocks stacked on top of each other,” Ziskis said. “It’s actually really neat what they are doing.”