



Onloaded: Bob Adams/*The Phoenicians*

January 15 – February 14, 2016



The history of the development of Phoenix, like much of the West, can be seen as making something out of nothing. Land, that for most purposes would be considered worthless, is repackaged with new homes and is sold at what often seems an arbitrary price. Like a mirage, Phoenix is the land of the perception of value. Homes sprout from the desert, communities are created, money and wealth are won and lost.

The pieces that make up *The Phoenicians* address ideas of perceived value and the role of packaging and presentation in creating the illusion of worth. Their titles—the asking prices for the homes—reflect that. These works question the subjective nature of value and worth. How can objects that seem so similar be valued so differently? How does the way an object is presented, whether a home or a work of art, change its value? What part of worth is inherent and what part is illusory?

Making something from nothing—this show is a continuation of many themes that have occupied my work for years, including ideas of transformation, of alchemy, and in particular, the idea of creating value from waste. As *The Phoenicians* demonstrates, I am fascinated by the role that presentation and process play in creating meaning or, perhaps better said, by worth and value that seem to rise from the ashes of nothing.

Bob Adams earned a Master in Fine Arts degree from Columbia University School of the Arts, New York, in 1987 and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Brigham Young University in 1984. His work has been exhibited in museums and galleries throughout the United States and is included in prestigious public and private institutions. He has designed over 15 Public Art Projects in the Phoenix Area including a Light Rail Station and the more recent Scottsdale Road and Camelback Road Bridge, Scottsdale.

Bob Adams, Ted G. Decker
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