

Art with Heart: Jeff Low

Written by By Erin van der Lee / Photographed by Jackie Mercandetti

Arizonans may have seen his work throughout the Valley, but distinguished artist Jeff Low has just unveiled a piece that'll soon be known by the nation.



Low was recently commissioned to create a work of art for President Barack Obama. "Fifty Ways To Say We Love You" is a colorful image that celebrates the diversity of culture and belief in the United States. (The print is now available to the public and all proceeds go to wounded war veterans.) The piece portrays the American flag with the 50 stars replaced by 50 hearts in various colors representing our multiethnic nation.

Low was born and raised in Binghamton, N.Y., and was an artist from the moment he "discovered a pencil had lead." He grew up in a household surrounded by music and art, and his father taught him to sign and date all his creations at a very young age. Low studied at Syracuse University and Academy 63 in Haarlem Netherlands under famed sculptor Wessel Couzijn.

Low says "art is self-expression and communication," and he believes there has been a real lack of support for arts education in the U.S. His organization, art4HEARTS, devotes time and money to arts education while also donating to other charitable causes. In addition, Low is the creative mind behind "The World in Our Hands," the best-selling UNICEF greeting card of all time. He has also created pieces for Planned Parenthood, the National Library Association, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Scottsdale Center for the Arts and Arizona Alliance for Arts Education. The Jeff Low Charitable Trust, which was founded earlier this year, raises money not only for arts education but also medical research and organizations that aid children in need in the U.S.

Now that he has completed "Fifty Ways To Say We Love You," Low is working on everything from a piece for a nightclub to a new project that will raise funds for American troops and their families. Low says every day is full of surprises, and he looks forward to creating more art locally and continuing to spend time with his favorite masterpieces: son, Marc and daughter, Jodi.

"50 Ways To Say We Love You" is available for purchase at www.art4hearts.org.