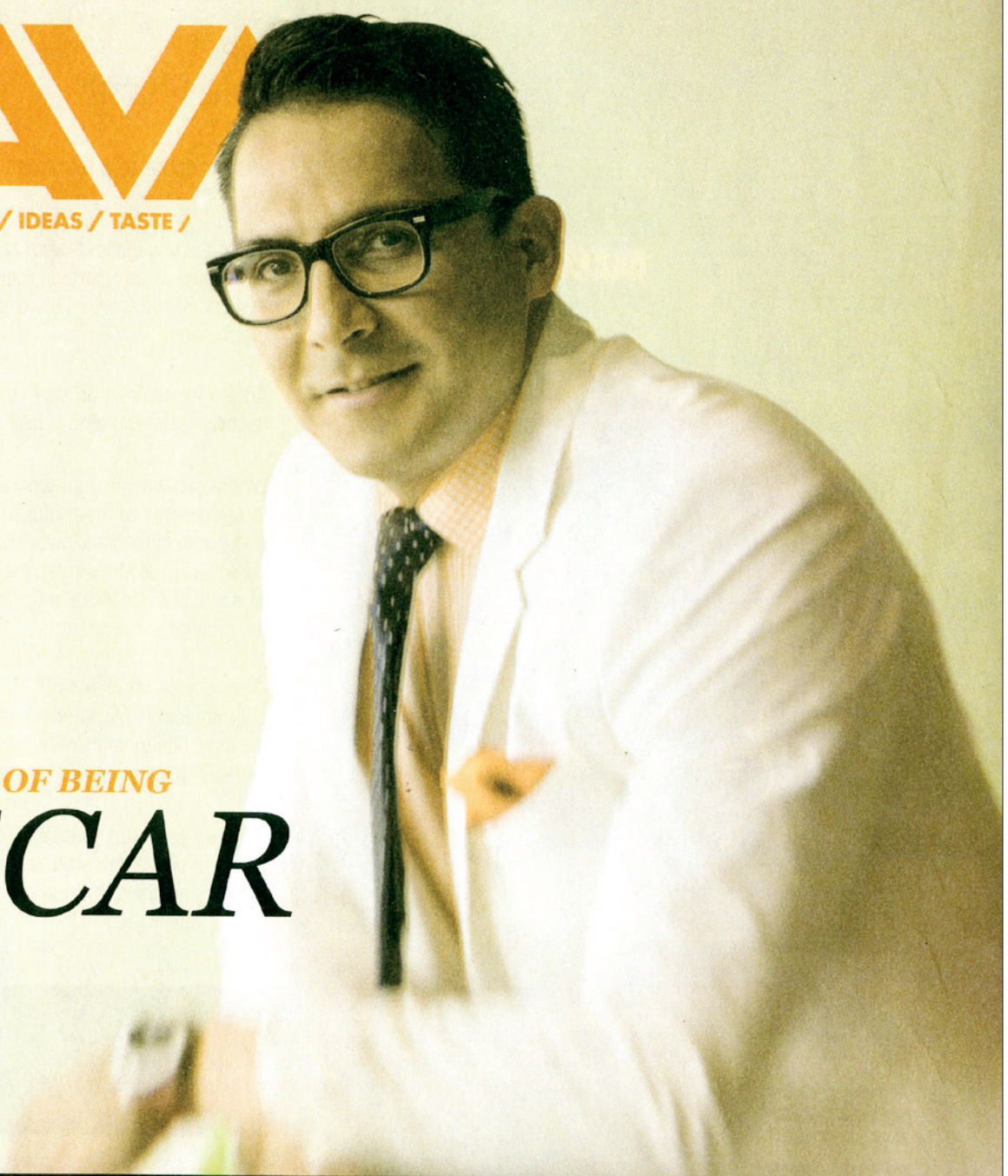


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## RAW DESERT VISIONS

Larry Kornegay and Bill Timmerman  
at Modified Arts

By Amy L. Young

Falling in love with the desert and its multifaceted landscape, especially for those like me with a raging city affinity, doesn't always come easily. I've come to realize that there's nothing wrong with that. If you let it unfold organically, its beauty and secrets can't help but reveal themselves in a myriad of ways—sometimes big and obvious, sometimes in trinket sized bits, either, a fraction of the many layers. In art, it is a fascinating subject in the ways it is interpreted.

The current show at Modified Arts is reflective of two artists that came together because of a shared love of the desert environment. Larry Kornegay's sculptures and Bill Timmerman's black and white photographs are testaments to what it means to inherently love the desert and have a desire to share that respect and appreciation. The exhibition also highlights a way that the natural elements and our developed city meld.

Kornegay's work doesn't let you forget that he is an exceptional designer. He uses his mastery of space and form to bring together materials like concrete, steel and wood to create unique sculptures, ones whose diversities make sense when they become

united. "Desert Instrument" comprises concrete, rock and cholla cactus. Its thoughtful, table-like construction envelops a textural wonderland, and each element used in the construction manages to maintain its own integrity. It invites a relationship with the senses, making you want to know its smells and sounds.

"Thinking In My Christmas Sweater" is much more than just a piece of art that Kornegay has blessed with a playful title. The concrete and steel piece is not only careful and delicate in its construction, it has a fun sensibility. A set of vertically positioned balls, made attractive with a complex pattern are topped by a grouping of cones that fit together as if they were born in a cluster. The sculpture really does equate with the title to conjure up a mental image of one of those too-busy, colored sweaters that often wins a prize at a holiday party or gets worn only around the house for 'tis-the-season relaxation.

Timmerman's photo "Pool Above Hance Rapid" is deep and quiet. The gentle ripples of the water are peaceful and calm as they play against the dry brush and tall walls of the Grand Canyon. The whole setting gives the viewer an easy place to get lost. It's a respite, a small safe haven within vastness. The type of environment that can offer a moment of security that allows thoughts to find clarity. Another photograph, "Neurosciences Institute, San Diego, CA" captures the magnificent sharpness of the building.

Timmerman zooms in on how the architects utilized a marriage of horizontal and vertical brick, the two directions uniting to result in an eye-catching blocky structure.

Artwork by these two artists comes together for an exhibition big on strength and emotion, inspiring reflection and balance through a heady awareness of our surroundings. ■

Larry Kornegay and Bill Timmerman  
Through September 14  
Modified Arts  
407 E. Roosevelt St., Phoenix  
modifiedarts.org