

## VISION GALLERY

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### CHANDLER ARTS COMMISSION DEBUTS ART-O-MAT® VENDING MACHINE; DEC. 2 EVENT AT VISION GALLERY HOSTS CREATOR CLARK WHITTINGTON

CHANDLER, Ariz. (Nov. 6, 2009) – The Chandler Arts Commission will unveil the country's latest Art-O-Mat® vending machine at its new home, Vision Gallery, 80 S. San Marcos Place, Chandler, during a free reception on Wednesday, Dec. 2, from 6–8 p.m.

The reception will introduce the Art-O-Mat®, an interactive installation artwork that is also a fund-raising vehicle. In addition, the reception will host the concept's creator, artist Clark Whittington of Winston-Salem, N.C.

The Chandler-based machine is the only one in Arizona. The Art-O-Mat gives patrons an inexpensive way to acquire an original piece of artwork. In exchange for a \$5 token, patrons select their favorite artwork from the converted cigarette machine, pull the lever and collect their cellophane-wrapped artwork from the dispensing slot.

Whittington developed the Art-O-Mat® concept in 1997 after noticing a friend's Pavlovian reaction to hearing cellophane snacks opened. Whenever the friend heard the tear of a package, he wanted a snack, too. So Whittington used a then-recently banned cigarette machine to create a vehicle for dispensing art packaged in cellophane. It was installed along with 12 of his paintings in a local café in Winston-Salem, N.C., and dispensed his black-and-white photographs for a \$1 apiece. When the show was over, the café owner wanted the machine to remain. To maintain inventory, the café owner introduced Whittington to a group of local artists. These artists formed Artists In Cellophane (A.I.C.), the sponsoring entity for Art-O-Mat®.

A.I.C. is based on the concept of taking art and "repackaging" it to make it part of our daily lives. The mission of A.I.C. is to encourage art consumption by combining the worlds of art and commerce in an innovative form. A.I.C. believes that art should be progressive, yet personal and approachable. What better way to do this than with a heavy cold steel machine?

Today, there are 82 Art-O-Mat machines throughout the United States and locations in Canada and Austria. More than 400 artists from 10 countries provide works for the machines.

The Art-O-Mat® sponsored by the Chandler Arts Commission at Vision Gallery is a permanent installation. The artwork will change constantly as new artists are included in the machine's choices.

**For more information, call 480.917.6859**

WHAT: Chandler Arts Commission's reception for Art-O-Mat® and artist Clark Whittington  
WHEN: Dec. 2, 6–8 p.m.  
WHERE: Vision Gallery, 80 S. San Marcos Place, Chandler, AZ 85225  
ADMISSION: Free  
INFO: 480.917.6859