

“Water/Rock/Wood”

Jake Webster and Kay Westhues

23 July – 20 August, 2011

Background

South Bend artists Jake Webster and Kay Westhues take the most elemental of materials and re-work them to tell very human stories.

Photographer Kay Westhues is interested in documenting the ways in which rural tradition and history are interpreted and transformed. Her long term project “Well Stories” deals with our relationship with the water we drink through a photographic and video study of old artesian wells in the mid-west, and the people who visit them. It explores the concept of ‘ownership’ of water, by replacing a consumer-driven perception of water as a commodity with a more indigenous understanding of water as a local resource.

[New York Times article on “Well Stories”](#)

Jake Webster is a veteran sculptor working primarily in wood but also in stone and pre-cast concrete. Drawing inspiration from the people that come into his life he uses art as a way of establishing dialog and promoting peace. A profound observer of the world, Webster is a natural teacher both in day to day life and in more specific settings like prison creative arts programs. Working with irrepressible energy his distinctive sculptures are in private and public collections throughout the mid-west and further afield.

Images

http://2739edwin.com/well_stories.jpg

http://2739edwin.com/jake_websters_studio.jpg