

## SFR Picks—Week of May 16

Codes and mics, pop-punk and the people



Courtesy Turner Carroll Gallery

By Alex De Vore and Pema Baldwin | 5 days ago

### Gradual Truths

The best art generally comes with a shift in perception, like Turner Carroll Gallery's upcoming Coded Languages, with artists Walter Robinson and Jamie Brunson. Language delves into the artists' goals to visually express how they perceive the world, but also how they'd like their audience to think about it. Robinson grew up in a bilingual household. If that's not tricky enough, his father was a cryptographer during the Cold War. As a result, Robinson's multimedia sculptures of wood, plastic and steel carry veiled yet substantial political messages that are prone to a wide variety of interpretations. Often, they're crude, abrasive, and force the viewer to consider the implications of what they're looking at. "I've never encountered an artist whose work has so much meaning ... on so many levels," gallery owner Tonya Turner Carroll tells SFR. On the other side of the spectrum, Brunson takes a much more delicate approach to her work. Rather than wood, plastic or steel, Brunson opts for light colors and fine materials, like polyester, oil paint and wax; instead of capturing a moment in time or a specific message, Brunson's pieces are a reflection of her meditative practices used to portray emotions. Brunson captures the feelings of movement and energy with color and line weight. "Robinson's [work] is completely about the external world," Turner Carroll explains. "It is a way of trying to reconcile historic events with contemporary reality, whereas Brunson's work, for me, is about the internal world on an individual basis." So if they're so fundamentally different, why are they featured in the same exhibit? "They're both [working] completely symbolically, without any sort of actual narrative, yet at the

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same time, they're communicating in completely opposite ways," Turner Carroll adds. Through completely different means, Robinson and Brunson have tapped into the same form of expression that relies on the context and images used in a piece, rather than the piece itself—and that's a special ability. (Pema Baldwin)

### ***Coded Language Opening Reception:***

5 pm Friday May 18. Free. Through June 6.

Turner Carroll Gallery,

725 Canyon Road, 986-9800