

I could take apart a circuit board, exposing its 'entrails' if you will, and reassemble the parts into a celebration of manufacturing. Not just the engineering but also the aesthetics." It was the beginning of his career in configuring abstract machines: still fully operational but not in the way they were originally intended.

Storz referenced "Grunge Machine Black Blossom," one of the wall hangings featured in this exhibition, as an example. "It's a structural hanging, mixed parts in black with electronic pieces and red diodes, maybe some-

thing you'd say is nightclub art," he laughed.

Of his 40 years as an artist, Storz credits his move to Northern New Mexico as most influencing his work. "Taos, in particular, is an iconoclast to the art world in general, and helps us to think more about what creativity really is," noted the man who has been called a "techno-sculptor" with "mad scientist sensibilities" and who has a sprawling studio: a toy box of electronic components and cast-offs; aged wood; twisted scrap metal; and drawing tools.

Yes: drawing tools. "Drawings are

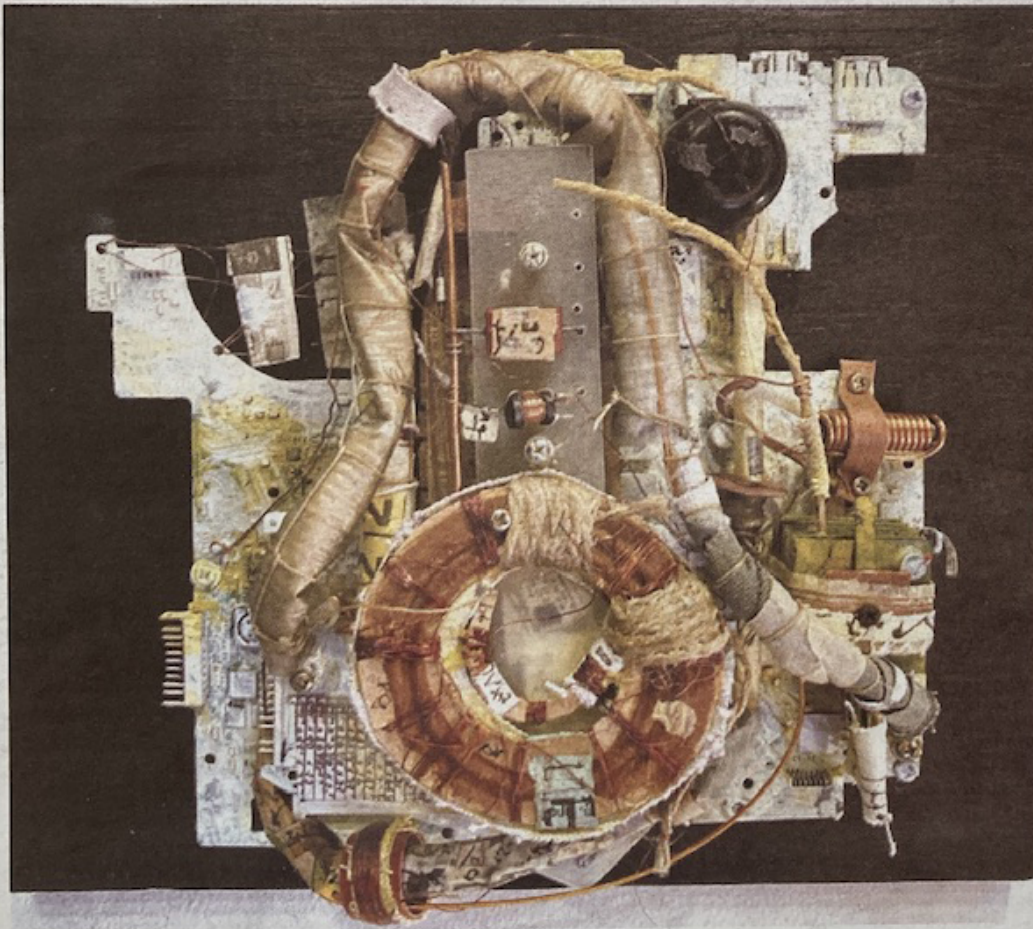
an art form I work in quite a bit to help formulate concepts and work out forms that I want to work with in three dimensions. Also, I draw to make finished works that are different than sculptures; they are merely an alternate language," he said. "Line quality is a whole world of wonder that allows subtleties, textures and masses in a realm that can express frenetic thought; slow, meandering, luxurious adventures; and dark and light spirit. It's an essential tool no artist should ignore."

In addition to advancing his own artistic pursuits, Storz has frequently

mentored other artists, particularly those who are self-employed and just starting out. "It's a way to honor those who helped me along the way," giving a nostalgic shout-out to sculptor Ted Egri. "I lived with him for about a year after his wife, Kit, had passed, and I learned so much about maintaining artistic integrity. He was also a niche artist, in a way and, from him, I learned to overcome the challenge of working without being susceptible to criticism."

The opening weekend of "Graphite and Gizmology" will also see a special collector's preview on Friday (Aug. 5) from 5 to 7 p.m. and an exciting artist's talk on Sunday (Aug. 7) beginning at 11 a.m. The talk will be followed by a collector's house tour for which details will be provided that day. Participating collectors agreed to open their homes and studios to the public to share how they have collected the work of Storz and how they have chosen to incorporate it into their lives, the artist noted.

"Graphite and Gizmology" will be available for viewing through Aug. 27. Bareiss Gallery is located at 15 State Road 150 in El Prado. For more information, contact Bareiss Gallery at 575-776-2284, or visit taosartappraisal.com. To learn more about the artist, visit stevestorz.com.



'Scavenger Accelerator' by Steve Storz.



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'Grunge Machine Black Blossom' by Steve Storz.