

Basic Detail Report



Title: No Speakee English

Date: 2003

Primary Maker: com.gallerysystems.emuseum.core.entities.RecordXPerson@3f5bf

Medium: Acrylic on canvas

Description: american pointing over shoulder to japanese american Shimomura explains "No Speakee English": "In the early 1970s, Roger and his colleague Mike Ott had adjoining studios in a building provided by the University of Kansas. Because of a faulty heating system, the interior room temperature during the winter months averaged about 90 degrees, making it unbearably hot. Despite daily calls to the maintenance office, the oppressive heat continued. The only way to combat this problem was to keep the windows open slightly, allowing the cold air from outside to cool the studio. One night, when Mike was out of town, the pilot light went out in Mike's furnace, causing the temperature to drop. The water pipes froze and eventually burst, flooding his studio. When Roger went to his studio the next

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morning, he noticed the flooding and called Buildings & Grounds to report the incident. Three hours later a repairman showed up at Roger's studio and asked to see the damage. Roger showed him the flood in Mike's studio, whereupon the repairman told Roger the pipes froze because the windows were left open. Roger said that he understood this, but explained they were left open due to the unbearable heat caused by a dysfunctional thermostat. The repairman, in a raised voice, repeated his reasons why the pipes froze, whereupon Roger repeated his reasons why the windows were left open. The repairman, now highly agitated, asked Roger who he was. Roger explained he was a faculty member in the Art Department and that the room next door was the studio the University provided him with to do his own artwork. The repairman asked to see Roger's studio, looked in all of the other rooms, then stormed out. The next morning, Roger was notified through the Chancellor's Office of an official report, filed by a worker from Buildings & Grounds, stating there was a Vietnamese student living illegally in a University building. The report went on to say this student was sleeping with his window open at night, causing the pipes to freeze and burst. The worker's report concluded by saying that despite his attempts to explain why the pipes burst, he did not think the student understood him because it appeared the student couldn't comprehend English."

Dimensions: 1913/16 x 2315/16in.