

TWO TOLEDOS



Imagine walking the cobblestone streets of an ancient city, where 500-year old buildings stand so close you can almost reach out and touch one on either side of you ... a town where revolutions are started by artists and Don Quixote was imagined to roam. That's Toledo, Spain, the Glass City's namesake.

Two area filmmakers, Jacob David and Joel Washing of Above the Shop Studios, recognize the importance of the connection to our sister city. The duo were studying abroad when they found themselves "On a one-day excursion to Toledo," Washing said. Knowing they wanted to connect the two cities in a documentary and "after milling the idea around for a couple of years," they surmised the best connection to our sister city was not found in industry or architecture, but in art.

"Cultural exchange is what it's all about," Washing said.

"Two Toledos" documents the works of great artists from both locales, showcasing the talents of people such as Spain's Ignacio Llamas — a world famous installation artist — and, from our hometown, Jack Schimdt, also world famous for his glass and metal sculptures (recently showcased in the Toledo Museum of Art). Many more artists are showcased.

T O L E D O FREE★PRESS

The dawn of a Toledo tradition

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The filmmakers started their journey at home.

"We started here at 20 North," Washing said, then began work in Tolmo, one of the oldest galleries in Spain. The gallery got its start "during the 70s when they were still under the reign of Francisco Franco, living under a dictatorship," Washing said. "There was this group of guys who realized the artist community was suffering in Toledo, so they decided to start a gallery in 1971, which was risky at the time, because a dictatorship censors everything it doesn't like. Consequently, a lot of the art was about democracy."

Dorothy Price of the Association of the Two Toledos has donated funds to get the project underway and Pat Giamarco of Marco's Pizza has pledged to help financially. Still, with a budget of \$50,000, David and Washing need a lot of financial attention.

David and Washing, in conjunction with PBS affiliate WGTE TV 30, will air "Two Toledos" in May 2006. Until then, you can track their progress on the "Two Toledos" Web site, www.twotoledos.com.

— Michelle Taylor