

A Panoramic View

TEXAS SCULPTURE GROUP

A Panoramic View | TEXAS SCULPTURE GROUP

August 22 — September 27, 2014



LAWNDALE ART CENTER

4912 Main Street, Houston, Texas 77002

www.lawndaleartcenter.org 713.528.5858

Welcome to Lawndale Art Center

When the Texas Sculpture Group first approached Lawndale about dedicating all of the building and outdoor garden for a show from sculptors from all around the state, I was reminded of something James Surls said in his talk in celebration of our 30th Anniversary. He said when the graduate sculpture department of the University of Houston was moved off campus into a raw, unairconditioned warehouse, he got used to saying yes. Yes to ideas that seemed daunting at the time. Yes to suggestions from those who may not be able to “pull off” the concept. Lawndale continues to say yes over thirty years later. Sometimes we say yes to an exhibition that may have begun as a doodle on a scrap of paper. When working with artists who need a space to experiment, you just have to say yes and see what happens. Most of the time the outcome is extraordinary. Sometimes, and this is a good thing, it becomes a learning opportunity for both the organization and the artist.

This time though, saying yes was a pleasure and without hesitation. What a wonderful way to honor Lawndale’s beginnings and James as our founder. What a great way to get a broad look at what is happening in Texas sculpture today, all in one space at one time. What a treat to collaborate with a group that is made up both of internationally known artists and those now emerging in the Texas art community. Some founders of the Texas Sculpture Group were a big part of Lawndale in our early years. With the same energy they gave to Lawndale, they also created a community that today gives voice to sculptors across the state.

Lawndale thanks the board and Exhibition Committee (all-volunteer) of the Texas Sculpture Group for asking us to host *A Panoramic View*. For this, Lawndale must also thank its volunteers, interns, board and Programming Committee, whose dedication and time makes all we do possible. Thanks also to our donors, who support us in so many ways.

I write this having only viewed digital images of the works. I cannot wait for the actual pieces to arrive and be installed onsite. This catalog will highlight a few of the artists in the exhibition and their work. I hope it will encourage you to visit Lawndale to experience the diverse narratives told through a wide variety of media in the many more works on view, a tribute to what artists can convey and inspire through sculpture.

Christine Jelson West
Executive Director
Lawndale Art Center

From the TSG President

When Jill Bedgood (TSG Board Member) thought about our making an approach to Lawndale Art Center for a major exhibit, three components were in place already...the space and its long history, James Surls, who helped put the space on the Texas art map, and Bert Long, a Houston art marvel. Both were good friends and the first sculptors given honorary membership to the TSG. This exhibition is a tribute to the memory of Bert, Lee Littlefield and Damian Priour. We lost each of these early and active members since this show was conceived.

Early planning called for Surls to be the juror and select work from TSG members who wished to be considered through a call for entries. The show itself would be a way to honor the memory of those we lost, and Lawndale Art Center could both house the exhibit, and recall its amazing past. We were delighted when the staff and the board gave us the green light.

The TSG itself began as a conversation between 3 of us in 2009. Most state wide support for sculpture was in the form of symposia held at universities and usually had strong career-prep and media workshops at their core. We wondered about what happens after graduation and decided to try and start an organization that would promote those sculptors emerging from schools. Established sculptors would be included and could act as mentor and magnets to the newly forming group. In a state so big, artists who didn't know each other could meet in each other's studios or at sponsored exhibitions. The Texas Sculpture Group was not to be attached to academia and would promote the work of its members on social media, a dedicated website and shows.

By the end of 2010 we had a volunteer board, artists had been contacted, a web presence established and the reputation was growing. We met the criteria for, and became, one of three formal "chapters" of the ISC (International Sculpture Center, N.J.)

Over the next years we mounted curated exhibitions from West Texas to the State Capitol. Work was seen, friendships made and collectors found. Today, 125 contemporary, working sculptors (mostly working in state but a few out-of-state) make up the membership of the TSG. As you can see in this exhibition some are new to studio practice and some are well established. The type of sculpture ranges from object to installation and mixed media.

The TSG thanks James, the Lawndale Board and its staff, and salutes our Exhibition Committee for making this a reality.

Stephen Daly
President
Texas Sculpture Group

To Look, To See, To Think

There are always moments in our personal history that come to call. My being asked to "curate" an exhibition at Lawndale by the sculptors who belong to the Texas Sculpture Group, gave rise to a flashback of my early days with Lawndale and working with the Texas Sculpture Group organization. Both have been front and center in my thoughts over the last thirty-five years or so. I said yes to the call, I will do it.

I knew there would be sixty or seventy sculptors to curate the exhibition from. I also knew that some would be making sculpture that I would like more than others. That is the nature of curating; narrowing down the field to a few. OK, I am ready to go with this, I will do it. But I must say that even though this is all true, I found myself saying, "Wait a minute," I wanted to include each and all, but that was not what I was asked to do. I was asked to simply pick the "best work" from the field and narrow it down to a few, then do a very clean, focused exhibition of those few sculptors. I could not do it.

Now what? I did like some works much more than others and I don't mind saying who, for the sake of the reality of what I was asked to do. Let me start by saying that Brooke Gassiot's "Mother and Child" piece got me the most, they were so direct and so void of the norm, that I was attracted in a direct way. A chair covered with a sheet-like cloth, holding the image of a mother with a baby in her arms. Here we are giving reality to the feeling that bonds us to eternity. It is as pure in nature as any feeling that exists. That bond, it gets us as whole as we will be, it gets us as far as we can go, it makes us who we are. Brooke's work is true to the thread that holds us together with the long terms of our world, it is personal.

I believe all great art is personal; it comes from the very core of our existence. Hello Sharon Kopriva, how does your garden grow? Who keeps the birds away? Or better yet, who keeps self contained within the shell that is us. Our bodies are the outward image of us as us, but inside we are more. We all set up the scarecrow to keep the "out there" things that come to forage in our personal Garden at a distance.

Sharon Kopriva has been at the forefront of personal honesty since her first step into protecting herself from the dark forces that come to devour. Here in this sculpture she is the Scare Crow, dressed for the occasion, here arms are made of switches, bundles of small ends of branches, tied together to show meaning to history. These bundles of switches were called "fags," used to set the fires of those that society deemed "unfit or undesirable" and were burned alive to scare all who dared to be different. The undesirables were women called witches, gays and lesbians and anyone who did not fit within the particular society. In this work of art, Sharon Kopriva carries a weight for all of us. This work of art becomes a metaphoric protector for humanities Garden. I put my personal reality with the Scare Crow and know I am well served by the existence of this work of art.

I liked so many of the sculptures in this exhibition, walking through the filled space will be like dipping the ladle into the soup caldron and pulling up the thick morsels to fill our needs to look and see and think.

James Surls

Curator

A Panoramic View: The Texas Sculpture Group

7



Photos by Rebecca Gutierrez

Bill FitzGibbons
Right Side/Wrong Side
2014





Photo by Lucero Archuleta Photo

Brooke Gassiot

Early Chair

2013

Sharon Kopriva

Luna
2009



Photo by Stephanie Darling

Photos by Reinhard Hentze



Hans Molzberger

*Rubins Colors – I never saw
another butterfly*
2013





Beverly Penn

Hydra II
2013



Photos by Christopher Zaleski

Courtesy of the artist



Susan Plum

*Naturaleza Oculta/
Hidden Nature*
2013





Photos by Seale Studio

Sabine Sneft

Umbilical
2013





Photos by Thomas Jack Hilton

Stephanie Sterling

Riverside

2012



George Tobolowsky

*A Rough Green Road
to India*
2012

Courtesy of the artist



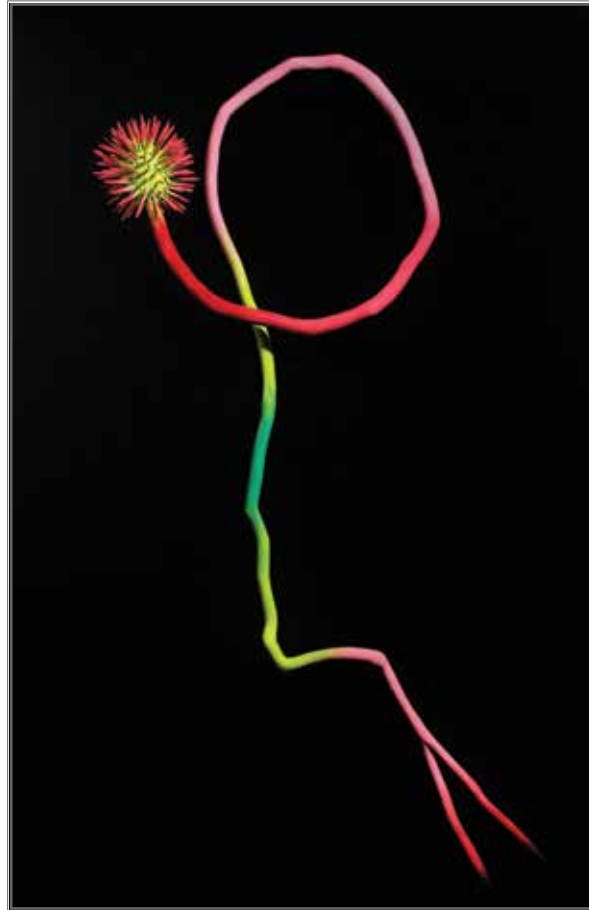


Courtesy of the artist

Ed Wilson

Log Parthenon
2012

Lee Littlefield
Long Tailed Seducer
2012



Courtesy of the artist

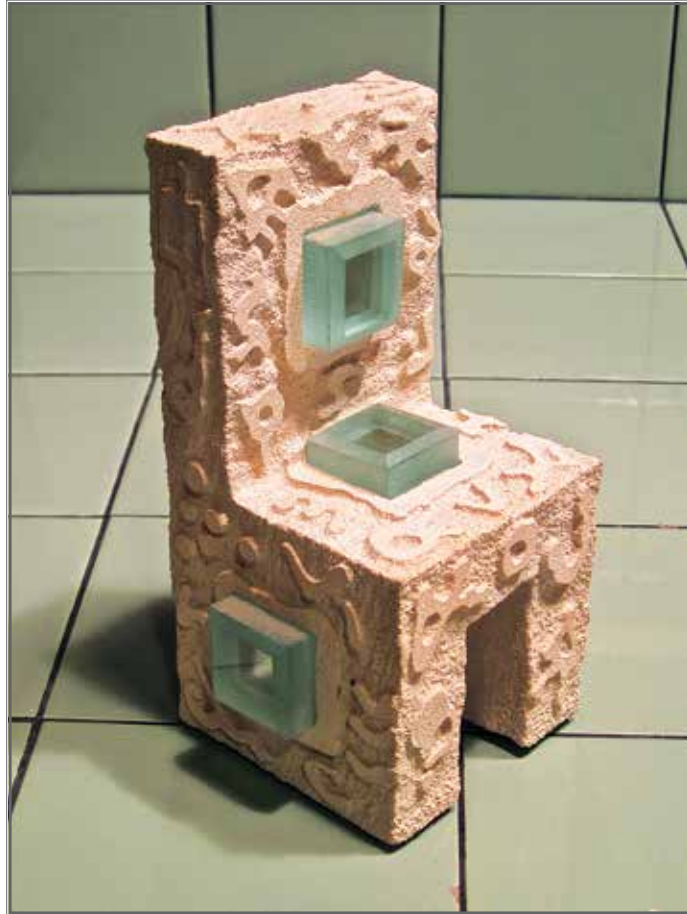
Courtesy of the artist



Bert Long, Jr.

Forebrother
1979

Damian Priour
Small Chair
2010



Courtesy of the artist

A Panoramic View

Exhibiting Artists

Ben Appl *Circuitdale* 2014

Peter Arcidiacono *Elm Markers* 2011

Richard Ariola *Under the Sea* 2013

Jan Ayers Friedman *NEFESH (First Level of Soul)*
2014

Brent Baggett *Tree Hugger* 2013

Jerolyn Bahm-Colombik *Whittling Bert* 2014

Robbie Barber *Stacked Barn* 2014

Verina S. Baxter *Tower No. VII* 2012

Jill Bedgood *Book of Hours: Intervention* 2013

Lauren Browning *Truth Will Out* 2014

Steve Brudniak *The Esoteric Dharma (The Descent
of the Bhodisattva into the Sea of Consciousness)*
2014

Susan Budge *White Cut Form* 2014

Danville Chadbourne *The Inevitable Invention of
Mythology – Equilibrium* 2010

Valérie Chaussonnet *Proud Peacock* 2006

Roger Colombik *Absence/Presence* 2014

Dylan Conner *Sewn in Space* 2014

Princess Cook *Gone South* 2014

Erin Cunningham *Delicate Flesh* 2014

Stephen Daly *VORTEX* 2013

Stephanie Darling *Whale Fall* 2014

Glenn Downing *Everybody Hollin Goat* 2012

Kurt Dyrhaug *Confronting Device* 2008

Carter Ernst *HOOT* 2011

Daniel Esquivel-Brandt *All She Need is Love* 2014

Bill FitzGibbons *Right Side/Wrong Side* 2014

Susan Fitzsimmons *The Spill* 2014

Jerry Freid *Buffalo Run* 2013

Brooke Gassiot *Early Chair* 2013

Amy Gerhauser *Pacific Gyre Series #11* 2014

Nell Gottlieb *Volcanic* 2013

Larry Graeber *Crumpled and Tied* 2011

Andrew Bellatti *Green Cradle* 2014

Jack Gron *Invader* 2013

Thomas Jack Hilton *Reaching for Home* 2014

Chad Hines *Grand Prize* 2012

Yu Ru Huang *Expression of Constitution (a puzzle)*
2014

Dewane Hughes *Enlightenment Through the
Pragmatism of Nursery Rhymes* 2014

Richard Hyslin *Tom Box* 2013

Meredith Jack *Snake Woman 1* 2011

Maria Cristina Jadick *The Price of Oil \$94.375 How
Many More?* 2010-2014

Jesús Moroles *Turning Bench* 2014

Paul Kittelson *Skin and Bones* 2014

Sharon Kopriva *Luna* 2009

Eric F. Krause *Scully* 2014

Alexander Larsen *Clear White White Yolk* 2014

Lee Littlefield *Long Tailed Seducer* 2012

Bert Long, Jr. *Forebrother* 1979

Margaret Losinski *Da Luz* 2014

Peter Mangan *Door Man* 2013

Wells Mason *Yellow Circles* 2013

Colleen McCulla-Thomas *New Moon* 2014

Jason Mehl *Watch Everything Recede* 2013

Bill Molthen *337* 2013

Hans Molzberger *Rubins Colors – I never saw another butterfly* 2013

Mary Morse *Beach Ladies IV – Sunbathers* 2012

Steve Murphy *So Very Much* 2013

Sherry Owens *Twirling Like a Sea in the Wind* 2013

Griselda Elena Peña *Barrier* 2013

Beverly Penn *Hydra II* 2013

Caprice Pierucci *Red Cycle* 2014

Susan Plum *Naturaleza Oculta/Hidden Nature* 2013

Chasity Porter *The Red Bird House* 2014

Damian Priour *Small Chair* 2010

Cat Quintanilla *Puffy in my Monsters and Morphs Series* 2013

Patrick Renner *Drawing for Funnel Tunnel* 2013

Greg Reuter *Sentry* 2013

Jim Robertson *Three Wheeler* 2013

Jonathan Sanders *Explore* 2014

Paul Seeman *Mother* 2013

Sabine Senft *Umbilical* 2013

Luke Sides *Pig 2* 2013

Judith Simonds *Historically Altered, Fetish Figures* 2012

Richard Skurla *ARC 1* 2012

Stephanie Sterling *Riverside* 2012

Sebastian J. Stoddart *Case Study 50.2 – Faulted Schematics* 2014

Laura Sturtz *Growth* 2012

Tanya Synar *Unnamed Nebula* 2013

Damon J. Thomas *Seven Generations* 2013

George Tobolowsky *A Rough Green Road to India*
2012

Cody Vance *Badlands* 2012

Hank Waddell *Venus de Milo and the Hallucinogenic
Toreador* 2014

Gary Webernich *Camo-Cams* 2014

Brian Wedgworth *Cosmic Reflection* 2013

Jonathan Whitfill *Bald Eyes See* 2013

Ed Wilson *Log Parthenon* 2012

Michael Witzel *Code Switching* 2014

Ben Woitena *Sword Dance* 2012

Acknowledgments

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Dennis Nance, Exhibitions and Programming Director, Lawndale Art Center

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Sincerely,

Gary Webernich, Caprice Pierucci, Steve Brudniak
TSG Exhibitions Committee

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WWW.TEXASSCULPTUREGROUP.ORG

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