

City of Oakland The Uptown ArtPark

Supported by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts



REPURPOSED: Uptown ArtPark Inaugural Exhibition April 5, 2013 – March 31, 2014

This site itself is repurposed. In the 1800's, this land was graced by the estate of "Oakland's first millionaire," Frederick William Delger. Later, it was home to a drugstore, and more recently, a Sears parking lot. Today it is a temporary art park, one day in the future perhaps a new commercial development. Like the location itself, the sculptures in this exhibition speak to mutability and reuse: the materials have a memory. For a time, they exist as these forms; one day they may be recycled and recombined in new ways. These selections reflect the resourceful repurposing of Bay Area artists working in an eclectic range of mediums but sharing common values: the celebration of our environment, the conservation and reuse of materials and energy.

In the Telegraph Avenue Gallery

- ***The Bike Bridge***, 2012
Michael Christian, lead artist, with Ale'ah Bashir Baagee, Pooja Disbar, Antonia Giles, Munirah Harris, Ocean Jensen, Andrea Kudsk, Crystal Lopez-Franco, Juliana Ramos, Samariya Schaffer, Jasmine Schwinges-Williams, Zoe Turin, & Brea Williams
Materials: Recycled bicycle parts
Dimensions: 20'x 20'

The Bike Bridge, sponsored by the Black Rock Arts Foundation, is a collaboration with Oakland youth, artist Michael Christian, and partner organization The Crucible. Twelve young women representing seven high schools in East and West Oakland were selected to participate in the project and completed courses in welding and art-bicycle making at The Crucible.

Artist Christian worked with The Crucible's instructors and the youth participants to design a "skeleton" structure that was then embellished by the youths with elements made from reclaimed bicycle parts, connecting the sculpture to urban bike culture.

"I'm inspired by the genius of nature and build things that make me smile. I attempt to use the simplest language and smallest words possible. Life is big and complex enough as it is." – M. Christian

- ***Offering***, 2009
Bruce Johnson
Redwood and copper
14'x16'x16'

"My work captures mass and energy in the composition of organic tree stumps, logs, boulders and copper detailing." – B. Johnson

- ***The Pressure to hold together that which held things back - Part 2***, 2011/13
Randolph Colosky
Salvaged retaining wall timbers, hardware
7'3"x7'10"x6'

The artist has reconfigured this sculpture for this exhibit. It debuts here in its present form.

"I am a person that can find romantic attributes in quotidian materials and content. I look to take what is familiar and ubiquitous in our lives and through unorthodox transformation, show that another dimension of esthetics and thought can be achieved with these materials." – R. Colosky

continued on reverse

In The 19th Street Gallery

- **Barbican – Part 2**, 2011
Randolph Colosky
Engineered ceramic honeycomb blocks and PL adhesive
6½'x3'x6"

"[These blocks] are used in several industrial processes...When viewed from straight on [they] have an interesting optical effect similar to a solid suddenly becoming somewhat translucent." – R. Colosky
- **Vinaya**, 2013
Eric Powell
Steel
15'x 5.5'x3'

Vinaya is a new work, created expressly for debut in this exhibit.

"The cohesive theme in this body of work is that the pieces are linear and open; they are part and parcel of the drawing process. The sculptures are informed by my drawings. The three-dimensional sculptures inform subsequent drawings, forming a cyclical flow of influence." – E. Powell
- **Trumpet Flowers**, 2011
Karen Cusolito
Recycled steel
20'x14'x14'

Trumpet Flowers features a subtle yet dramatic lighting effect with rich LED lighting in each flower head and LED lighting at key points throughout the root base.

"Community, cross-inspiration, curiosity and passion for the natural world have been consistent ingredients in my life, and they are the driving force in my creative work." – K. Cusolito
- **Uprising**, 2009
Bruce Johnson
Redwood and copper
14'x9'x5'
- **Skiff**, 2010
Eric Powell
Steel and patina
12'x34"x30"

"The overall form evokes boats and river travel; the three open 'pods' represent the three American Indian tribes who once populated the area." – E. Powell

- **Dandelion**, 2011
Karen Cusolito
Recycled steel
20'x20'diameter

Dandelion features LED lighting effects in each of the three flower heads and indirect lighting beneath each of the five leaves.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to the artists, for their talent and skill, their enthusiasm, support, and hard work on this exhibition.

Artist Websites:

Michael Christian michaelchristian.com
Randolph Colosky rjarts.com
Karen Cusolito karecuso.com
Bruce Johnson formandenergy.com
Eric Powell ericpowell.com

Sponsor/Partner Websites:

National Endowment for the Arts arts.gov
Black Rock Arts Foundation blackrockarts.org
The Crucible thecrucible.org

City of Oakland Public Art Advisory Committee:
Kevin Chen, Alison Cummings, Nick Dong*, Jennifer Easton, Joyce Hsu*, Judy Moran*, Andrew Woodd

***Inaugural Exhibition Selection Panel**

The Uptown ArtPark is a project of the City of Oakland Public Art Program, Cultural Arts & Marketing, Office of Economic & Workforce Development in partnership with the Office of Neighborhood Investment.

Public Art Program Staff:

Steven Huss, Cultural Arts Manager
Kristen Zarembo, Senior Public Art Project Manager

Contact:

Steven Huss / shuss@oaklandnet.com, or
Kristen Zarembo / kzarembo@oaklandnet.com

City of Oakland Cultural Arts Programs:
www.oaklandculturalarts.org