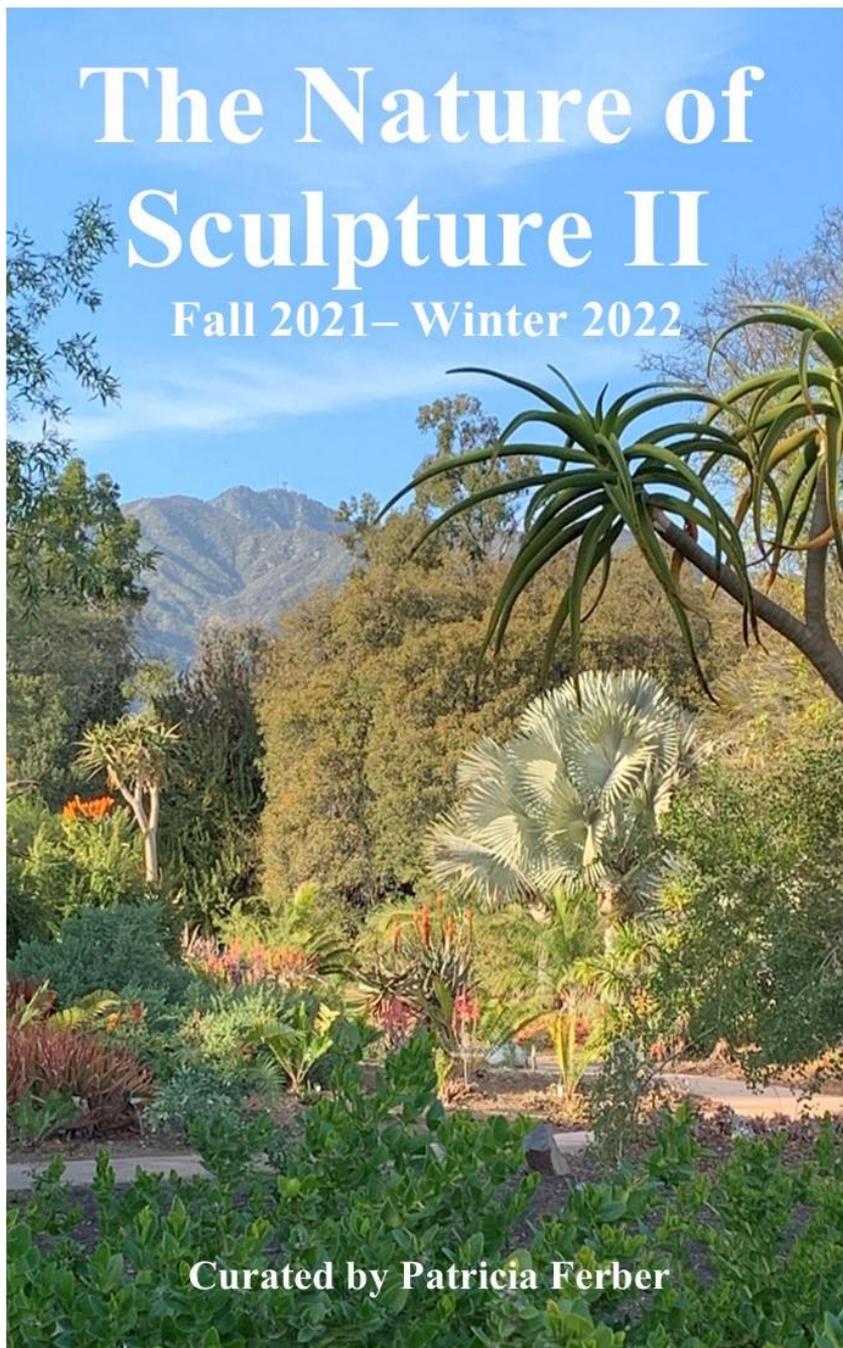


# The Nature of Sculpture II

Fall 2021– Winter 2022

Curated by Patricia Ferber



## Welcome to The Nature of Sculpture II - The Arboretum Takes Flight

It is an honor to again be asked to curate this extraordinary sculpture exhibit. It is a chance to work with all the talented artists that are participating and have their beautiful sculptures displayed in this year's show, surrounded by the exquisite environment of The Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden.

The exhibit allows us to step beyond ourselves, into the diverse beauty of the Arboretum's various landscapes, where both the gardens and art will resonate together in harmony. It gives the viewer a chance to walk, see and experience the gardens, the sculptures and the tremendous artistic talent on view.

I want to thank, The Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation Board of Trustees, Richard Schulhof, CEO, Tim Phillips, Arboretum Superintendent, James Henrich, Curator of Living Collections, and all the staff that made this show possible. My heartfelt thanks to Kevin Casey, Carol Soucek King, and of course my deepest thanks to my family and friends for your support.

A special thank you to Brittany Fabeck for your guidance, and timeline of organization, a great union and a joyous experience in working together once again. Also, thank you to The Nature of Sculpture II committee, Robert Tager, Susan Eubank and Vickie Banando for all your hard work and insights.

In the spirit of The Nature of Sculpture II, welcome and enjoy!

Patricia Ferber - Curator

The Nature of Sculpture II has been a journey full of discovery and adventure. I extend my deepest thanks to Robert Tager for his encouragement and persistence. Without him the exhibit would never have come to the gardens.

Thanks to our fantastic curator, Patricia Ferber, and our incredibly talented artists for transforming an idea into an exhibition. This year we are fortunate to have artists from around the world share their vision of what the Arboretum with all of us.

A special thanks to the Arboretum trustees and Richard Schulhof, CEO, for their willingness to bring sculpture back to the Arboretum.

This exhibition would not have come together without the patience and expertise of my colleagues: Susan Eubank, James Henrich and Timothy Phillips

Two volunteers dedicated hours behind the scenes to make this exhibition come together. Vickie Banando and Shake Mamigonian, thank you for your continued willingness to take on the "impossible" tasks.

Finally, I thank my family. Your unwavering support and sense of humor keep me going.

Brittany Fabeck, Donor Relations Manager

In celebration of a vital and growing arts community, Nature of Sculpture II invites you to explore the work of ninety-three artists. You will experience the horticultural heart of the Arboretum reimaged through an expansive overlay of artistic vision across diverse botanical landscapes.

Since its early beginnings, landmark architecture and the gardening arts have distinguished the Arboretum. The Nature of Sculpture II exhibition expands upon this tradition, offering contemporary art as a new and compelling point of connection to a beloved public resource. We thank Patricia Ferber for her invaluable contributions to organizing the show and bringing it to fruition. We also wish to thank the Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation, the generous support of our members, and the dedicated staff and volunteers who have contributed to the project.

Richard Schulhof, CEO

## The Nature of Sculpture 202-2022 Participating Artists

Leigh Adams

M. C. Armstrong

A.S. Ashley

Walter Askin

Michael Bayless

Sabine Stadler Bayless

Angela Briggs

Julie Brooks

Pamela Burgess

Brian Carlson

William Catling

Leslie Codina

Joyce Dallal

Raoul De la Sota

Patricia Ferber

Cathy Garcia

Margaret Garcia

Yolanda Gonzalez

Michael Hannon

Brenda Hurst

Joyce Kohl

Tanya Kovaleski

Dale La Casella

Maria Cristina Lattes

Gina Lawson Egan

Kim Lingo

Diana Markessinis

James B. Marshall

Kevin McHugh

Heather McLarty

Chris Moore

Robert Moore

Frederick Olsen

Victor Picou

Elisabeth Pollnow

T. Robert-Pacini

Dan Romero

Kent Rothman

Don Ryan

Christopher Slatoff

Georgia Toliver

Philip Vaughan

Lauren Verdugo

Larry White

Julie Williams

Kathy Yoshihara

Yoshikawa



## Leigh Adams

Leigh Adams is an artist, teacher, mother, grandmother and relentless gardener. She has spent over 65 years creating things that did not exist before, starting with seedpods and chicken feathers and running through materials as diverse as glass, concrete, gourds and plant fibers. Leigh has expressed her colorful visions and arcane skills in a variety of settings, ranging from the Mojave Desert to schools in Kenya, Costa Rica and California. They all harbor her art, gardens and legends created in concert with local people and materials. She also has work at the Natural History Museum, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens and the Arboretum as well as in private gardens and homes around the Southland.



## M. C. Armstrong

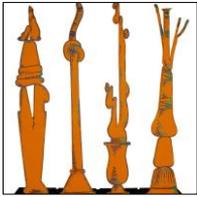
Los Angeles ceramist, M.C. Armstrong, has been working with the medium of clay since 1993. Her work is inspired by a love of nature as well as by a deep desire to not pollute the world with human detritus. She has incorporated found objects into her sculptures since 2000 carefully considering each object for its shape, past use and potential application. Armstrong's combined uses of clay and found objects lends itself to the whimsical humor, which she imbues in each of her sculpted creatures. Armstrong has exhibited at Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Palos Verdes Art Center, Riverside Art Museum and American Museum of Ceramic Art.



## A.S. Ashley

A.S. Ashley's involvement with regional art communities has spanned five decades with curatorial contributions in Los Angeles, Bakersfield and Downtown Pomona promoting emerging artists within their respective art colonies. Recently, he co-authored the passage of Pomona's Cultural Master Plan and Public Art Ordinances. Ashley is a multidisciplinary artist whose works includes painting, sculpture and installation. His work is assembled from objects arranged to symbolically give new form and meaning within our culture and environment. Ashley's traffic sign piece is representative of signaling humanity to "yield" to our vulnerable flora and fauna. Ashley states that between climate change and wholesale deforestation, it is important to indicate that we have crossed a line from which we may not recover. He added pink toy

chainsaws to camouflage within the pink trumpet tree for some irony. "It is an artist's purpose to see their vision through and speak to issues around them."



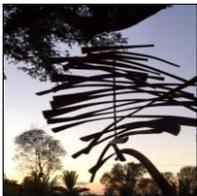
## Walter Askin

While working at the Kohler Arts/Industry Program in Wisconsin, Mr. Askin created a series of cast-iron enameled totems. He expanded his works in Southern California by using flame-cut welded steel. The metal surface is coated with powdered enamels similar to the durable finishes applied to household appliances. "Magic Garden" is an imaginative, interpretive visual adventure – a quartet of inventions based upon plant forms, creating an unconventional set of sculptures with a variety of possible interpretations. His work tries to define the human desire to expand not only his imaginative life, but, through his work, the imaginative lives of others. His works are not defined by boundaries but by the extent and transformative energy of their illusions. "The real joy is in making a better, calmer, more serene, more alive, more playful, more focused, more directed, more life filled and visionary existence for the time we're here."



## Michael Bayless

For 40 years, Mr. Bayless has explored ceramics; low fire, oxidizing and reduction firings, gas, wood, salt and soda firings in all different ways. "I had fun!"



## Sabine Stadler Bayless

In the past, Ms. Bayless used recycled clay to build many coiled sculptures. It took time and patience to reclaim discarded clay and make it workable again. Today, her work is constructed from old flower stems of over 70 year old date palms from her yard that have fallen off the crown during stormy weather over the years. Inspired by Alexander Calder's kinetic art, she created over a seven foot high and seven foot wide wind chime hung where it can be free turning and spinning. Each stem is balanced and separated from the other by a glass bead. Its movement in the breeze is entertaining and calming at the same time. The stems exposed to the elements change color in time, eventually falling apart to become mulch, closing the cycle of life. Ms.

Bayless has numerous degrees in Ceramics from Germany and worked with notables around the world.



## Angela Briggs

Angela Briggs is a multimedia artist, drawing from more than 50 years of experience. She works in assemblage, sculptures, and public art. The signature pieces in Briggs repertoire of art-to-wear include her one-of-a-kind Khatiti Juju bags and jewelry, mostly created from wood, gourds, coconut shells, bone, leather, copper, fiber and mosaic infused with a variety of recycled items. She grew to appreciate and observe our environment at an early age and believes, through her art, she is able to pay tribute to her African Ancestors and their close spiritual relationships with the earth. Chi Wara is an agricultural shrine dancing over the land to enable plants and animals to grow and flourish.



## Julie Brooks

Julie (Gibbs) Brooks graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Art, Magna Cum Laude with departmental honors, and received the Pollak Award from Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas in 2003. She went on to study with Yoshiro Ikeda at Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas and received an MFA in Ceramics in 2006. Her ongoing, successful efforts to create art in public places is one of the manifestations of her belief that art is a part of daily life and is essential for the health of the human mind and spirit. "My task as an artist is to bring from nothing, that which none have imagined or that which all know in their bones as truth. This requires a blatant disregard of correctness, order and use of tradition as a device. You will question my motives and decisions. That marks the trailhead of our discoveries about the facts I have molded together in clay."



## Pamela Burgess

Pamela Burgess is a visual artist living in Los Angeles whose work is motivated by a fascination with nature and its materials, and a reverence for craftsmanship. Her diverse practice of installations, drawings and photography explores the concept, beauty and meaning of landscape as seen through a personal lens. The transitory nature of life is the underlying theme of

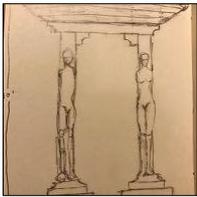
her work. Pamela's current project, the Garden of Many Teeth, is a contemporary interpretation of a Chinese literati garden named after the small triangular teeth on the leaf edges of the "Aloe pluridens" (French aloe) native to South Africa and a major feature of the project. Examples of the species are found in the Arboretum. The symbolic garden, a place of refuge, thought and reflection, represents a global, cross-cultural landscape with references to the art, religion and botany of East Asia, India, South Africa and Southern California.



## Brian Carlson

Mr. Carlson's sculpture is entitled "Simultaneous Joy in 3D." He was born in Los Angeles in 1959 and was raised in Arcadia from 4th grade through high school. At Arcadia High School, he learned industrial arts, focusing on ceramics, wood and metal shop. He went on to Pasadena

City College, where Philip Cornelius mentored him in ceramics. He continues to make his living as a contractor and craftsman, pursuing art as his motivating passion. He is currently artist-in-residence emeritus at Zorthian Ranch in Altadena, California.



## William Catling

William Catling, a San Francisco native (trained by artists from the Bay Area Figurative School) moved to Southern California in 1991 to continue his work as an artist and teach at the University level. For him, art and life are a search for meaning amidst a complex and changing world. Humanity

has a long history of creating the human figure as part of a ritual, cultural and spiritual reality. He works in that tradition, using the figure as a vessel for ideas and concepts. The work is about the continual discovery of the true human condition residing deep within the earth and the human form. The art is a blending of the visible and the invisible; matter and spirit joining. That is the real work of the artist, bringing something to life, the alchemy of art, elemental and potentially transcendent.



## Robin M. Cohen

A Los Angeles native, she worked as a dancer in her young adulthood but later returned to her childhood love for the visual arts. She presently pursues her foremost passion for carving in stone, and paints and draws in abstract, impressionist and photo-realistic styles. "I have always

loved animals and nature and from the earliest age attempted to recreate the world around me through constantly drawing. I picked it up, off and on, through my life but it wasn't until 2003 that I seriously started to pursue art as a career. In October 2005, I was introduced to stone sculpture and thus began my truest love affair in the arts! I experience a state of excitement and meditation at the same time, which spurs me forward towards completion of each work. This is the first stone sculpture I've created as an outdoor piece, but it definitely won't be my last!"



## Joyce Dallal

Joyce Dallal is an artist who works in a variety of media. The themes that surface in her artwork are those of collective and personal history, community, memory and the evolution of contemporary cultural identity. A first generation American born in the Midwest to parents from Iraq, both her personal and public work are informed by the experience of navigating and integrating this duality. She is the recipient of several grants and fellowships, among them an NEA Regional Arts Fellowship in Photography, a Brody Arts Fellowship and a Los Angeles Individual Artist Fellowship. She has exhibited nationally and internationally. The city of Pasadena, the Los Angeles International Airport, the Los Angeles Public Libraries, Community Redevelopment Agency and Department of Cultural Affairs have commissioned her public work. She received her MFA from the University of Southern California and is a professor of Art at El Camino College in Southern California.



## Raoul De la Sota

Numerous works deal with the telluric and mystical landscape, focusing on pictorial and spiritual qualities and on world beliefs such as "The Skies Above" at the Southwest Museum. The work I shall be presenting is "Family Tree", which is a *Opuntia/Nopal* cactus which represents my family background from the mountains of Mexico. Grandma's Family Tree - "Coming from the indigenous culture of the Chihuahua mountains, my Grandmother crossed the US border during the bloody Mexican Revolution carrying my uncle and pregnant with my mother. She taught herself to speak and write English and became a US citizen. She taught me about the philosophy, traditions and beliefs of her native land, many of which I use in my art. My uncle became the Oscar winning actor, Anthony Quinn and my mother, Estella became a licensed pilot flying across the Atlantic in a single-engine airplane."



## Patricia Ferber

Patricia Ferber has been working in the field of ceramics for over 40 years. Her area of expertise in the fine arts is primarily as a sculptor. Working in varied media, she is an educator, a curator and a free-lance artist. Her art encompasses clay pieces, paintings and large/environmental landscape works formed out of rock and metal. "My artwork continues to evolve through the exploration of working in multiple media. Clay continues to captivate me, serving as an extension of my imago mundi."



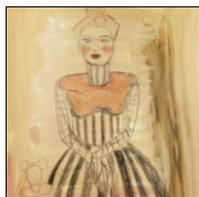
## Cathy Garcia

Ms. Garcia is self-taught in mosaic artistry and has been creating pieces for over 15 years. She has exhibited in numerous shows, both solo and group presentations, and created several public art displays. Her work is currently featured at the Ontario International Airport. Ms. Garcia is a psychotherapist by profession. "I love color and enjoy combining textures and shapes to bring vibrancy, movement and life to my pieces. A key component is to reinvent the old and unused into a thing of beauty. A 'treasure hunt' for my supplies takes me to yard sales, thrift shops and friends' garages. The mosaic process is like building a jigsaw puzzle without a map. The pieces unfold themselves. My current passion is creating human busts and animal figures which seem to have personalities of their own."



## Margaret Garcia

Margaret Garcia was born in East Los Angeles in 1951. Her recent exhibits are Chicano Dreams, Bordeaux, France Muse D'Aquitain, and Transforming Feminism South Bay Contemporary. Identified as one of the 24 artists who have impacted LA Art, History and Culture in the LA Woman exhibit. Her art is in the Cheech Marin collection, and she was Artistic Project Manager for an NEA project in Watts called "Our Town," and is on the walls of the Universal City Metro station in tribute to the History of California and the signing of the Capitulation of Cahuenga, making California a territory of the United States. Ms. Garcia's work is personal and embraces the cultural common ground of her community and the history of Los Angeles. Flat compositional space is firmly rooted in the tradition of Mexican folk art. She has pieces in the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Laguna Art Museum.



## Yolanda González

Ms. González was born into a family whose artistic heritage dates back to 1877. Her world is one of curiosity, demonstrating her love of people and their surroundings. González's travels in different countries and the bonds forged with individuals in those places, and the resulting transformative experiences are reflected in her art and her life. She is known for her strong, bold brush strokes of color and texture intent on evoking imagination and emotion. In 1998, she was an artist in residence in Ginza, Japan, followed by a similar stint in Assisi, Italy, during 1999. Among the many museums that have shown her work are the Armand Hammer Museum, The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA, the Japanese American National Museum, and the Diego Rivera Museum in México City. For her most recent exhibition in 2014, González's ceramics and paintings were on exhibit at The Musee d' Aquitaine.



## Michael Hannon

In 1969-70, Mr. Hannon began his metalworking career in the army as the jewelry and lapidary instructor at the Fort Ord Craft Shop. This enabled him to become skilled with casting metal and shaping techniques. He attended California State University Long Beach, majoring in art with an emphasis on jewelry, metal and blacksmithing, and worked in a bronze foundry. After two years in his own jewelry business, he went to sheet metal and welding school and was certified to weld on skyscrapers and battleships. He worked in the LA shipyards for 1 and 1/2 years and was hired by Calty Design Research, Toyota's design center as a model maker building car models to designer specifications using a multitude of materials, including wood, metal and fiberglass. In his spare time, designed and fabricated table and task lamps and won an international contest sponsored by Artemide S.P.A. (the largest lighting manufacturer in Europe.)



## Brenda Hurst

Ms. Hurst is a Los Angeles painter and mixed-media artist. Most recently, she has been working with rusted metal objects found mostly in the Mojave Desert. When she discovers these pieces, they had been left behind as trash, often buried in sand, and as unnatural forms, had become part of the natural landscape. After finding these out-of-place treasures with

their intriguing corroded and discolored surfaces, she cleans and modifies them until their hidden intrinsic beauty and story emerge. These works then become part of her Arrested Decay series. This Arrested Decay piece, *Manifoldlia californica*, is primarily made up of rusted vehicle exhaust manifolds and tin cans. They represent a future landscape where there is no water. "What is left is our rusting debris growing up from the earth, reminding us of the natural flora we once so enjoyed."



## David Kiddie

David Kiddie has been a professor in the Department of Art at Chapman University in Orange, California leading the 3-D area, teaching ceramics and sculpture since 1985. His works are in many national and international collections and have been shown at numerous galleries and museums including the American Museum of Ceramic Art, Maloof Museum, Orange County Museum of Art, California State University, Channel Islands, California Polytechnic Pomona State University, University of La Verne, Western Project and the Arboretum. He holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from Claremont Graduate University.



## Tanya Kovalesski

"The giant bird of paradise is inspiring to me — exhilarating to stand amidst these magnificent plants with their tall leaves and blossoms. The regular-size birds of paradise stand nearby and give the giants an even larger sense of scale by comparison. This is the location I chose for my sculpture. My sculptures are 'site-specific' installations. I build structures that I imagine are playing with the space in which they exist: my way of experiencing and paying tribute to a place. As installations, they can be temporary in nature, as is all life. Making sculpture for me is a process of continual learning. My large-scale works are puzzles for me — solving physical problems of balance and gravity, while enduring the environment. These are essential considerations. My materials and imagery are always evolving — for joy and perseverance. The giant birds of paradise have had eons to perfect their existence."



## Dale La Casella

'The Guardian of the Garden' evokes the artist's sense of whimsy and delight in the natural elements of the garden combined with a love of medieval lore and renaissance fantasy. "He" stands, or rather sits, as a totem welcoming you to the garden. "Sometimes a leaf is just a leaf, and a branch is just a branch, but at other times.... well, this mixed media creation invites you to let your imagination soar." La Casella began creating sculptures as an artistic outlet about 20 years ago, drawing inspiration for her work from live models, photographs, renderings and her own vivid imagination. She lives in a historic 1906 Craftsman bungalow with her husband, architect James Vitale. Her cats Clio and Calliope act as resident muses for Two Cat Studio.



## Maria Cristina Lattes

Around 2005 there was a big storm in Buenos Aires, one that brought down an elm tree at the botanical garden where Ms. Lattes was showing her work. She asked the authorities if she could use a fallen piece to give it a new life. That's how 'Amanecida (dawned)' was born, a new dawn for a fallen tree.



## Gina Lawson Egan

"Transformation is a recurring theme in my work and central to my creative process. I transform while working in my studio. It is a sanctuary for me where I can take a deep breath as I sit in my chair and ready myself to create. My sculptures transform as I work, heightening my creative vision and excitement as the piece begins to reveal itself." This year for the exhibit, she created a ceramic totem. The base begins with a large sturdy female figure that appears half human and half plant. The additional sculptural images playfully stack above her head in celebration. Gina Lawson Egan is a ceramic artist living in Ontario, California. She received her BFA from the University of Michigan and MFA in Ceramics from the Claremont Graduate University. She teaches methods of ceramics sculpture and studio processes at California Polytechnic State University in Pomona, California.



## Kim Lingo

"I began making animals out of love and amazement, filled with delight and curiosity. I am very drawn to the dimensionality of nature's creatures, their textures, shadows, folds of the skin, as well as their unique postures. It is capturing all the subjects' features that interest me. I enjoy discovering and creating my new subject. I have found an amazing peace and tranquility in the world of ceramics. Ceramic art combines all the things I love whether it is art, gardening or animals while maintaining a beautiful connection to the earth and surprise elements from the fire of the kiln. One day while out in the garden I wanted more pots for my plants. I wasn't happy with the store-bought ones so I decided I would make my own and enrolled in a ceramics class. This is my where my heart is. I am forever grateful for this journey."



## Diana Markessinis

Diana Markessinis is a California based sculptor known for creating hybrid forms of the natural and the architectural. Primarily manipulating metal to mimic chosen attributes of plants, trees, and seen here, cacti, Ms. Markessinis explores the human experience on the natural world and vice versa.

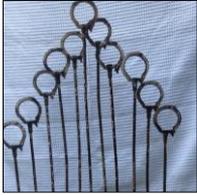
In 2007 she received her Masters of Fine Art in sculpture from California State University, Fullerton and her undergraduate degree in sculpture from West Virginia University (2003). She has attended special workshops at the Pont-Aven School of Contemporary Art, France and the Haystack Mountain School of Craft in Deer Isle, in Maine. Currently she is living and working in the Bay Area.



## James B. Marshall

Mr. Marshall has always been involved in art beginning with guitar and singing in various venues in San Francisco, Las Vegas, Washington state and ending up in Los Angeles. He worked for 30 years with the Los Angeles County Probation Department. He refers to this part of his life as a "30 year hiatus!" Having a love of master-crafted machine parts and visiting various salvage yards, he started creating pieces of every type. Link and roller chain, large sprockets and gears comprise the majority of his pieces. Glass, wood and ceramic add different texture and color to his work. He has great pleasure and satisfaction with recycling machine parts and glass and various wood pieces into works that people enjoy. He sits on the Board of Directors of the Pasadena

Society of Artists. He has two new "Bronze" works on exhibit in Laguna Nursery, in Laguna Beach.



## Kevin McHugh

Kevin McHugh's medium consists entirely of found pieces that aren't quite art yet. His assemblages utilize elements found in everyday life that any other person would easily dismiss as litter. This began over two decades ago in his garage after going on a treasure hunt. The works of Joseph Cornell, Max Ernst, Kenzi Shiokava and Robert Rauschenberg have inspired his vision of making the unseen seen again. His assemblages evoke a sense of nostalgia as one not only sees the human form in his work but also of a time gone by when treasures and tools of the past were discarded and forgotten. Rust and deterioration form the basis of his medium and are as essential to his work as clay is to a potter. His work is not only inspiring and resourceful but also gives credence to the phrase, "one man's trash is another man's treasure."



## Heather McLarty

With the help of many generous men and women who are continuing the great craft of blacksmithing, Ms. McLarty has spent over 20 years establishing herself as a well-known craftsperson and artist. Her work has been selected for public parks and national art exhibitions and her gates, railings and other architectural pieces adorn many California homes. She has found a special affinity for sheet work, particularly repoussé and high relief chasing. In the summer of 2005, she spent several weeks in the Czech Republic and studied Louis XVI ornament and tooling from the master smith Alfred Habermann for 2 of those weeks. Her studio is located in a large Sioux style tipi at her home in the Highland Park neighborhood of Los Angeles, California. She shares the rest of the place with her husband, Troy, and a few four-legged friends.



## Chris Moore

Mr. Moore is a California native who was born in Hollywood and grew up in the San Gabriel Valley. He attended Blair High School, took random classes at Pasadena City College and later received a B.F.A. from California Institute of the Arts. His employment history includes: float builder/art production for Pasadena's Rose Parade, art handler for Sotheby's New York,

preparator at both the Norton Simon Museum and the El Paso Museum of Art, and installer for Acumen Fine Art Logistics. Currently, Chris resides in Altadena and works out of the studio set up by his late father, Robert Moore, where he creates metal sculpture. Additionally, he works in watercolor illustration, carves in wood and stone, makes collages, and writes fiction.



## Robert Moore

As a true artist, Robert Moore transformed his experiences and memories to artwork that is pleasing and filled with charm. He achieved acclaim through his skill and artistry. His works have been represented in numerous galleries throughout his native Los Angeles. He completed many commissions which adorn buildings in and outside Southern California and his work is held in several notable collections both here and abroad. Influenced by artists such as Alexander Calder, Pablo Picasso and David Smith, among others, and combined with his own life experiences, Robert created works that reflected those interests. Borrowing concepts and expanding upon them, or creating, series by series, whole new genres, he left behind a massive amount of art. In addition to sculpture, Robert also produced line drawings, carved wood and stone, and made collages. He is greatly missed.



## Frederick Olsen

Mr. Olsen has been a professional ceramist for over 61 years, working out of his pottery studio and home above Palm Desert, California. He is very well known worldwide as a kiln builder and wood firing potter. His book, *The Kiln Book* is a well-established classic in the field of kiln building and design since first published in 1973. His Olsen Kiln Kits and specialty wood kilns are recognized around the world for their superior design and longevity. Mr. Olsen is noted for his asymmetrical shapes, wood ash glazes, and wood fired work which he has been doing since 1961 abroad and at home.



## Victor Picou

Nature has inspired Mr. Picou's creative interest since he was a child at the beach. Fascinated by the continuous movement of the water, of the sand, shells and rocks his organic forms capture the essence of mysterious history over millions of years. The combination of materials, fossils,

sand, rocks, and clay give him endless ideas and pleasure. "I want the history of the stone to be seen and appreciated." Many of his sensuous forms are bird- or floral-like. An embedded clam shell, plus numerous shell fragments are found in this piece. The sedimentary elements are easily seen in the bands of color.



## Elisabeth Pollnow

Ms. Pollnow's art fluidly borders three-dimensional and two-dimensional forms, addressing themes found in the natural world. After moving to Joshua Tree in 2014, her work took a new direction when she found some ancient pottery on a hike. Intrigued by this direct connection between artist and land, she developed her own clay body sourced from the nearby adobe fields. This recent work, inspired by early native dependency on the land and how the land influenced them, resulted in wrapped figures made entirely from this locally-sourced clay.



## T. Robert-Pacini

"Much of my work celebrates the order in the organic. I built these cage structures to represent the organic outgrowth of columnar trees. Tall, narrow, slender silhouettes like abstract columns, uncultivated, these organic towers begin reaching upward, evoking strength and structure, with an energy of purpose."



## Dan Romero

"On an ancient and abandoned dirt road about a mile and a half from my back gate is a row of scraggly pomegranate trees. They get no water or attention outside what is shared with wild tobacco, sage and cactus. The wind is strongest right there. They seem proud to produce fruit every year. I've eaten them. But not just me. Ravens do too. I've seen that. Coyotes, bears and skunks do too. Once I saw a bird's nest in one. They were small birds in an open nest. I knew they would not survive there. I always thought about how they needed a better nest. This sculpture is what my imagination knows of this reality. I share this with you." Dan Thinking Raven Romero



## Kent Rothman

Kent Rothman is a Ceramic Artist/Teacher who has worked with an extensive list of artists throughout the world. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts from the New York State College of Ceramics in 1989, Master of Fine Arts from Claremont Graduate University in 1991 and Art Education Teaching Credential at Dominican University in 2007. He has taught at Cerro Coso College, Mendocino College, California State University Hayward, College of the Redwoods, Sierra Nevada College, Mendocino High School and Claremont High School. He was the Director of the Ceramics department at the Mendocino Art Center for 14 years (1993-2007) and worked at the Anderson Ranch Art Center from 1985-87. He has traveled and studied with the potters of Deokuri, Kathmandu and Thimi of Nepal and traveled throughout California, Mexico and Hawaii surfing from Mendocino to Puerto Escondido and Kauai and is currently teaching Ceramic Art at Alta Loma High School.



## Don Ryan

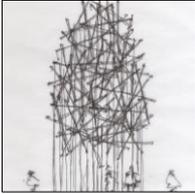
Mr. Ryan was born in Newport Beach and graduated from the Kansas City Art Institute with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. He graduated from UCLA with a Master of Fine Arts degree and studied ceramics with Ken Ferguson, Adrian Saxe, John Mason and numerous others. He was an artist in residence in Perth, Western Australia, in 1989. Ryan has handmade ceramic design and custom ceramics since 1990. He currently teaches at Soka University, Saddleback College and Coastline Community College.



## Georgia Toliver

Tolanna Georgia Toliver was born in Iowa and raised in the suburbs of Los Angeles. Despite her artistic talent as a child and a lifetime of fine art courses, she pursued science, history and philosophy to earn her bachelor's degree at California State University Dominguez Hills. She followed a long and successful career in forensic science that included expertise in authenticating signatures of artist such as Dali, Picasso, Chagall and Miro for the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office. This work was published in the *Journal of Forensic Science*, and she was featured in the NOVA presentation, *The Fine Art of Faking It*. She lives in the West Adams Historical District and is active

in the preservation of the community. Her interest in history, art, culture and philosophy culminated in the winning concept for a monumental bronze sculpture of renowned architect, Paul Revere Williams, in the heart of this district.



## Philip Vaughan

Mr. Vaughan met his mentor, Gordon Taylor, at boarding school in England at the age of nine. Mr. Taylor started him on a lifelong love of architecture, painting and sculpture. While doing graduate research at Northumberland Polytechnic art school, he completed his first large public kinetic sculpture, the 48 foot tall *Neon Tower* erected on the roof of the Hayward Gallery in 1972 on London's South Bank Art Centre. He taught at the City of London University while he experimented with inflatables and kinetics. He built a 42 foot ocean-going sail boat in Rotherhithe and in 1979, sailed to Florida with his wife Alice. He started working for Disney Imagineering designing animatronic dinosaurs, rides and sets for theme parks. He lives in Altadena and continues to plan and build public sculptures using light and other media. Recently he has been working on large steel sculptures at the Buffalo Creek Art Center in Nevada.



## Lauren Verdugo

After working seven years at the Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts, Ms. Verdugo began her career as a multimedia artist/woodworker and is currently studying under master craftsman, Larry White, as his assistant in his studio in Pioneertown, California. Additionally, she is a student at San Diego State University pursuing her Bachelor of Arts in Applied Design, with an emphasis on Arts Education. "Craft has become a part of who I am and I cannot wait to see where it takes me. Art is a means of synthesizing the world around us. It has come to be the pursuit of truth, a soap box, a mirror, an indissoluble facet of what defines us as a species. Art challenges us to think deeply, question everything, and empowers us to shape how our environment affects our daily life."



## Larry White

Although Mr. White is primarily known as a master craftsman working with Sam Maloof for 29 years, he is also known as a versatile artist exhibiting work in other disciplines. He's taught at University level and conducted summer workshops at ARAC in Colorado. Currently, he is an artist-in-residence at the Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation in Alta Loma, California and works at his studio in the high desert near Pioneertown, California.



## Julie Williams

Ms. Williams' abstract sculptural work transforms everyday materials into luscious and inviting forms. The utilitarian bottom of a plate becomes pattern, hard ceramic appears to become soft texture. The form is organic, yet the parts are clearly mass-produced. This work explores how far the materials can be pushed away from their original state and what dormant personalities might be coaxed out of them. Ms. Williams lives in Los Angeles and is an artist with interests in sculpture, mosaic, public art, art education and collaborating with underserved communities.



## Kathy Yoshihara

Ms. Yoshihara is a sansei, (third generation) Japanese American. Her inspiration is rooted in her duo background and heritage. She says duo because of her naivety/ignorance, she did not think there was a big divide between her Japanese American background and that of her ancestors. That fallacy was an eyeopener during her recent trip to Japan. She now describes her work as having a Japanese feel, but with an American twist. She continues to draw from Japanese images, customs and materials, but know that they are a hybrid like her. Her piece *Jizo* is inspired from her trip to Shikoku's 88-temple pilgrimage. Each temple has a patron deity, but they also include Jizos. Jizos guide us on our travels; give power to those who are weak (children) and those in dangerous places.



## **The Nature of Sculpture II**

  
**The Arboretum**  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN  
301 North Baldwin Avenue • Arcadia, CA 91007-2697  
Tel. 626 821 3222 • [www.arboretum.org](http://www.arboretum.org)