



"SWANS ON THE MARSH"
V. Skip Willits
Camanche, Iowa

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"Swans on the Marsh" consists of three pod-like objects, each having two sides. As the artist walked along a marsh one early spring morning, he saw three swans. This is his abstracted version of those swans.

V. Skip Willits began learning his technique of creating artwork using metal fabrication at the age of ten from his father, a shop welder for 40 years. His father taught him characteristics of materials such as steel, cast iron, and aluminum, to various techniques from arc to torch welding. In 1983, Willits completed and placed Ring of Life, his first large scale outdoor public sculpture. He states, "my art does not contain a message – it contains my identity. The sculptures that I produce are an integral part of me; they come from my experiences and explain my life."



"AMASA BACK"
Kasey Stertz
Lawrence, Kansas

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"Amasa Back" is an interactive and transformative visual puzzle, centered upon public manipulation and the freedom of the work to present itself in infinite possible visual combinations. When initially installed, all of the rotating disks will be precisely in order and the puzzle solved. As interaction occurs, the form will change shape – never quite looking the same. The piece will always possess the ability to return to its initial state but as more and more people rotate the disks, the more difficult the puzzle will be to solve.

Kasey Stertz is currently pursuing an MFA in sculpture at the University of Kansas. She has earned BS degrees in mathematics and physics and a MA in architecture. Having such a diverse background allows Stertz to experiment with fusing science, art and architecture together within her work. Recent pieces incorporate digital fabrication technology, enabling the generation of complex structures influenced by topographical forms.



"POLLYWIGGLE"
Bounnak Thammavong
Shueyville, Iowa

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"Pollywiggle" is an abstract and whimsical sculpture inspired by farm implements such as grain bins and augers. For the viewer, the artist hopes it reminds them of childhood toys and brings a light-hearted context to the industrial agriculture that surrounds them.

Bounnak Thammavong was born in Vientiane, Laos and currently resides in Shueyville, Iowa. He has a MFA from the University of Iowa and a Master of Arts and a BFA from the University of Northern Iowa. He is currently working with various metals and woods, drawing inspiration for his forms from elements of agrarian life found both in Laos and Iowa. He uses these elements to generate geometrically abstract references to that particular way of life. Due to his interest in illustration, he has a tendency to incorporate imagery or graphic elements into his forms.



"ASTRID MODULAIRE"
Jaak Kindberg
Greenwood, Arkansas

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"Astrid Modulaire" abstractly represents past Queens of Hearts and broken hearts.

Jaak Kindberg is originally from South Florida and has presented art exhibitions in a variety of venues around the country, including libraries, schools, nightclubs, festivals, public parks and galleries. He draws inspiration for his art from his various vocations as well as his degree from the University of (Hard) Knocks. He is currently a full-time artist creating sculptures, paintings and photography in Greenwood, Arkansas.

OUTDOOR DOWNTOWN SCULPTURE EXHIBITION LAWRENCE, KANSAS

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The Outdoor Downtown Sculpture Exhibition was founded in 1987 by Jim Patti and the Kansas Sculptors Association.

JUROR: LORI NORWOOD
Lori Norwood is a professional sculptor who has made Lawrence her home base. She has often produced large scale work for public spaces in bronze or steel, including work for the Austin, Texas library system, St. Joseph's Hospital in Houston, the Carolina Raptor Center in Charlotte, and the International Modern Pentathlon Union offices at the London Olympic Games. She has worked with private individuals, corporations, architects and civic percent for art programs as well as with her own continuous explorations on a smaller scale. Lori was awarded the Tri-State Sculpture Association's top prize for classical realism, the American Women Artist's Association top prize for sculpture, first place in the Barcelona International Exposition of Sportsmen in Art, and recipient of Lawrence's own Phoenix Award for Visual Arts in 2012. She is an Associate member of the National Sculpture Society.

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EXHIBITION

LOCATIONS

In creating "CYCLOPS" the one-eyed steel giant, the artist wanted the sculpture to feel organic, a natural part of the landscape. The chain in the base is meant to resemble the weave and texture of fabric, softening the hardness of the steel. The recycled farming disc and chain used in the top give contrast to the angular shape of the base. The clear-coated steel center caps were fabricated from 18-gauge sheet metal reminiscent of a classic automotive hub cap. A mostly self-taught artist, master mechanic, fabricator and longtime Lawrencean, Pat Slimmer has been creating art his whole life. The Art Car world introduced him to public art and his "Flying Saucer" Art Car has traveled to many exhibitions and has been featured in several books. The "Flying Saucer" is just one of several Art Cars he has created. Pat has also created metal sculptures for the annual Scarecrow Auction as well as a metal wreath for the Festival of Trees. Currently, Pat has a large-scale sculpture on display at the NOTO Arts District in Topeka, Kansas