HERmitage 2

I have always been fascinated by survival in the wilderness. I built tree houses and dug caves as a kid and later homesteaded land in Costa Rica where I lived for 22 years. My sculpture is an extension of these experiences and deals in particular with hand hewn structures. HERmitage 1, made of cedar logs, is an enclosure based on a triangle, the ancient symbol of the feminine. Vertical poles stand watch at the corners of the three sides made from split cedar planks. The center of the structure is wrapped with grape vines.

Susana Jones
LANAGAN, MO

Union University is pleased once again to participate in sponsoring the Outdoor Sculpture Competition and Exhibition 2009-10. At Union University, we regard the arts as an important aspect of our society. We have all been given creative abilities, but some have special gifts and talents that enable them to communicate in a dynamic and powerful way. Union University is thankful to be a part of a community such as Jackson that values the contribution of the arts.

The community-at-large benefits from this competition in direct and indirect ways. It benefits directly, of course, by the new sculpture that is added to our city. It benefits indirectly by the growing appreciation and awareness for the artists in our area and the creative work they produce.

Art is for everyone, and outdoor exhibitions such as this invite all members of our community to enjoy and experience these wonderful contributions. As Jackson continues to grow and prosper, Union University is delighted to be a partner in a city that thrives on cooperation. This sculpture project has been a welcome addition to our community and our region.

David Dockery
PRESIDENT
UNION UNIVERSITY

As a visit to almost any museum will remind us, art records the ideals of every culture. From Babylon to the Indus Valley to the Greeks and the Romans, our understanding of culture itself is linked inextricably to the fine arts produced by each culture. Without exception, all vibrant cultures have energetic artistic communities. Art provides insights into culture, even as it enhances it and shapes it. Indeed, art is a part of the fundamental glue that binds together the various elements of any community. For the City of Jackson and the surrounding area, the JUST program has become a model of how partnerships and aesthetics can enhance both the intellectual and the emotional parts of our communities. Union University and the College of Arts & Sciences are honored to be a part of this classic “town and gown” activity.

Dr. Gene Fant
DEAN OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, UNION UNIVERSITY

“As Jackson has grown into a major metropolitan center in West Tennessee it is essential for it to establish itself as an vibrant art center as well. The main purpose of the Sculpture Tour is to promote the City of Jackson and to encourage our citizens in the participation and enjoyment of the visual arts.”

Aaron Lee Benson
SCULPTURE TOUR DIRECTOR

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Jackson, TN/Union University Sculpture Tour

A joint project of the City of Jackson, Jackson Downtown Development Corporation, and Union University

September 2009 – August 2010
Reception September 25, 2009
Born in 2002 to beautify the city of Jackson in the wake of a destructive tornado, the Jackson Union Sculpture Tour infiltrated our historic downtown with a fresh glimpse of culture, creativity, and community. On February 5, 2008, we were reminded of why we began the sculpture tour in the first place. The essence of community was tangible as individuals and groups reached out to bring aid and care to those affected by the devastating tornado. I saw firsthand the importance of a community that works and grows together, a community comprised of individuals helping to move one another forward. Having an annual installation of sculpture each fall has resulted in our community’s anticipation, experience, and enjoyment of the surrounding visual environment. Now in its seventh year, JUST continues to move new works of sculpture into vicinities frequented by Jackson residents. A more vibrant and modern environment can be observed as the fruit of this partnership between the city of Jackson and Union University.

It was a pleasure to receive and judge the many submissions for this year’s competition, including several international sculptures. We eventually chose what we believe to be the most deserving works, displaying fine craftsmanship, creativity, and community-building potential. It is with great excitement that we present you with this year’s artists and their winning sculptures!

Rebekah Frost
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Aaron Lee Benson
SCULPTURE TOUR DIRECTOR

Kelsey Nagy
DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

Caleb Booth
Meagan Comeaux
SUPPORT STAFF

Everything...

I have always been inspired by man’s ability to create structures that seem to interact with natural environments. One major influence for me is architect Frank Lloyd Wright. His structures seem to enhance the idea of nature and my perception of it. Architecture and nature are two very large influences in the cultural landscape and I see my sculpture as a medium for communicating the significance of these relationships as well as a creative outlet for reinventing the way in which we perceive them. I believe that my work communicates a personal connection between an exposure to scenic river ways and an emphasis on traditional American values and craftsmanship. During the creative process I have discovered that the river theme in my work is more about social relationships. The river has become a catalyst for building and strengthening bonds among friends and family. The nuts and bolts that keep us tied together. This concept of mixing natural forms and geometric architectural structures reflects a personal narrative of growth and change.

Nathan S. Pierce
CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO

| HERmitage 2 | Susana Jones | 12 x 4 x 4 ft. – cedar and vine | 2005-2006
| --- | --- | --- | ---
| Everything... | Nathan S. Pierce | 85 x 42 x 38 inches – stainless steel | 2007-2008

Previous Purchase Award Winners

| Earthen Passage | Glenn Zweygardt | 11" x 4" x 3" – metal and stone | 2003-2004
| Reaching for the Sun | Wayne Trapp | 16" x 4" x 4" – powder coated steel | 2004-2005

| Untitled #2 | James Davis | 129" x 81" x 80" – steel | 2003-2004
| Mother and Child | Jim Collins | 7.5" x 4" x 4.5" – stone | 2006-2007
| Gethsemane | Shawn Morin | 7.5" x 4" x 4.5" – stone | 2005-2006
| Autumnal Equinox | Hanna Jubran | 14" x 7" x 4" – steel and paint | 2007-2008
| Burden of Proof | Chris Wubbena | 12' x 4" x 4" – metal and stone | 2008-2009

*Purchase Award Winner