



By Kyle Johnson
Published: February, 2006

It was six forty five when I finally caught a glimpse of the time. I was already forty-five minutes late, my internet connection was down and I had no idea where I was going. With only remnants of the directions I had in my mind from the day before I began my journey down Houston's historical Washington Avenue. What once connected Houston proper with Camp Logan, now Memorial Park, served as my jet way to a diverse congregation that brought unity in its juxtaposition of styles.

Turning right on Birdsall just west of TC Jester sits a quasi-religious church conversion with a sculpture garden that would make the Cullen's a bit envious. Fighting the crowded car-lined streets, parking was all but abundant. Now five blocks away I proceeded to burn off the calories I should have had for dinner. I grabbed myself a nice merlot, fought my way to the door, took a deep breath and walked in. I found myself amidst a robust visual playground rich in color, texture and history. A haven for the city's great artists, nowhere will you find a fusion of sculpture, abstraction, realism and the likes with more accessibility. It was an experience much like Nicola Parente's Six Degrees of Separation where spotting someone you know was commonplace.

"It is the soul of a human being interrupting, expressing and creating beyond its horizons. I seek a sense of contact in the spaces between us," said Parente.

"I like to create art that makes a statement. If you can transcend the viewer to another place, you have accomplished something wonderful," said sculpture artist Joe Incrapera. Working in small editions of eight to ten his elongated women with large feet provide a whimsical Giacometti-esque realism for

any art niche. Houston found a home for his life size bronze sculpture of Christopher Columbus right here in Bell Park.

"Saying more with less moving her towards a convergence into one," South American painter Sylvia Pinto Souza "sees everything as inspiration. You don't have to go very far," she said of her love for nature and abstraction. Acrylic washes build up a textural variety much like her series Landscape of the Minds gives rise to a poetic visual displacement.

Glen Hendrix finds himself amidst an experimental utopia, his studio a laboratory for discovering new applications of archival materials. In a constant state of flux the media themselves serves as inspiration where he often finds himself waiting for his pieces to dry. While he favors straight lines and perfect circles, the industrial designer brings spontaneity to every piece.

Escaping from communist East Berlin where improvising and making something out of nothing was a necessity, Sabine Stromeyer turned social disobedience into organization and structure. Driven by culture and traveling her love for Italian modernism fit seamlessly with her three-dimensional sculpted mixed media pieces. Creating earth like textures, Sabine works with wood panels, styrofoam, acrylic, and

fresco powders in what she coins “textural art.” Washed glass, gemstones, resin, bone and Russian Amber found around the world form wearable Travel Treasures each providing the right balance, color and texture.

Sometimes starting with a specific color he likes the process of development. He prefers simple things and those that are spontaneous. There is a strong design element although not formulaic, but rather quite unique. Keith McNay and his affinity for horizontal and vertical lines give root to his graphic design background. His piece entitled Vertical Streams presents strong solid colors in an intensely abstract impressionistic style leaving you wanting more.

Soul searching through a series of deeply moving emotions, her impressionistic feminist bronze castings help to reshape the spirit. Starting with the face by letting it form the personality Pat Moberley Moore’s pieces evolve into a mythical solidarity. Her travels throughout the Southwest have yielded the incorporation of limestone and marble with her bronzes. Her works reside in the collections of Willie Nelson, Nancy Reagan and Barbara Bush.

Leaving her business degree behind the gallery recently welcomed Joyce Combs as she explores a series of reflections in urban grids and landscapes with brilliant patterns of oil on canvas. She reflects upon her days of printing and papermaking in creating abstract figures on atmospheric grounds.

A graduate of Mansfield University where my grandparents both taught artist Bob Chrzabowski prides himself on diversity and shock value in his pieces. His oil washes are done on a flat surface giving him a wider range of movement. His love of texture stems from his sculpting background as he forms shaped canvases from a normally two-dimensional medium.

To illustrate the vastly diverse congregation of artistry is to pay a visit to the gallery itself. The first Friday of every month embarks upon a new journey for this timeless Houston treasure.