

Ackland Art Museum in Chapel Hill, NC, Features Installation by Patrick Dougherty

The Ackland Art Museum at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC, has commissioned its first major site-specific, outdoor art installation in nearly 20 years: a “stickwork” sculpture by Chapel Hill-based artist Patrick Dougherty entitled *Step Right Up*. The large-scale work was constructed on-site over a three-week period, and is made entirely of tree saplings. It is on view 24/7 in front of the Ackland Art Museum in downtown Chapel Hill, expected to be on view through Aug. 31, 2018.

Step Right Up was formally dedicated at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017, that featured remarks by UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor Carol L. Folt, Ackland Director Katie Ziglar, and the artist, and included Chapel Hill Mayor Pam Hemminger.

“Patrick’s five individually-shaped sculptures act as carnival barkers of sorts, summoning the public to ‘step right up’ and enter the Ackland to experience the wonders inside,” said Ziglar. “The art on view in the Museum includes a 2,000-year-old Iranian earthenware, animal-shaped pouring vessel that the artist acknowledges was a key inspiration for these works.”



Works by Patrick Dougherty, photo by Emily Bowles

Dougherty’s *Step Right Up* follows the Ackland’s exhibition of *Los Trompos* - large-scale, Mexican spinning tops - and similarly activates the outdoor public space in front of the Museum. “Patrick’s stickworks invite us to walk inside them, explore their interiors, and discover new views looking out on the surrounding environment of UNC and Chapel Hill,” said Ziglar.

The maple and gum tree saplings used to make the piece were responsibly harvested from Duke Forest and Triangle Land Conservancy, organizations with which Patrick Dougherty has long relationships. At the ribbon-cutting, Ziglar thanked “the 188 volunteers - including UNC students, faculty, staff, and alumni; Triangle community members; and Ackland Art Museum Members and friends - whose hard work and commitment made *Step Right Up* come to life.”

Owing to the organic material used and the outdoor setting, *Step Right Up* is a temporary installation, expected to be on



Works by Patrick Dougherty, photo by Emily Bowles

view through Aug. 31, 2018.

Born in Oklahoma in 1945, Patrick Dougherty was raised in North Carolina. He earned a BA in English from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1967 and later returned to study art history and sculpture. His first work, *Maple Body Wrap*, was included in the *North Carolina Biennial Artists’ Exhibition of 1982*. The following year, he had his first one-person show at the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art in Winston-Salem, NC.

Over time, Dougherty developed the monumental-scale environmental works for which he is now famous. In the last thirty years, he has built over 280 of these works - around the United States and all over the world - and has received international acclaim. Some of his most recent commissions have been at the Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, SC; the Sarah P. Duke Gardens, Durham, NC; the Bay Area Discovery Museum, Sausalito, CA; the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA; and the Palo Alto Art Museum, Palo Alto, CA.

He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2011 Factor Prize for Southern Art, a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, a Japan-US Creative Arts Fellowship, and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship.

Featuring a year-round calendar of special exhibitions and dynamic public programs, the Ackland Art Museum - located on the historic campus of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill - encourages visitors to engage with the artistic past as well as with living artists from around the world. The Ackland’s holdings consist of more than 18,000 works of art, featuring significant collections of European masterworks, twentieth-century and contemporary art, African art, and North Carolina pottery. In addition, the Ackland has North Carolina’s premier collections of Asian art and works on paper (drawings, prints, and photographs). Its global collection of artworks from antiquity to the present makes the Ackland uniquely able to advance the teaching and research missions of the University.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings or visit (www.ackland.org).

Ackland Art Museum in Chapel Hill, NC, Offers Exhibit of Japanese Military Prints

Ackland Art Museum in Chapel Hill, NC, is presenting *Flash of Light, Fog of War: Japanese Military Prints, 1894-1905*, which spotlights dramatic Japanese prints in an innovative installation, on view through Jan. 7, 2018.

Flash of Light, Fog of War: Japanese Military Prints, 1894-1905, is an expansive exhibition showcasing 75 Japanese prints of battle scenes from the First Sino-Japanese War and the Russo-Japanese War at the turn of the 20th century.

Drawing from a recent, major gift to the Ackland of over 240 Japanese prints from Gene and Susan Roberts, *Flash of Light, Fog of War* presents these military scenes in an unprecedented manner: rather than being arranged chronologically, the dramatic atmospheric and luminescent effects depicted in the prints organize the exhibition. Starting with prints featuring moonlight, the exhibition moves through scenes that include electric searchlights,

pyrotechnic explosions, and the fog and smoke of the aftermath of battle.

The show’s emphasis on technique provides a unique opportunity to examine how late 19th-century Japanese printmakers adapted to the realities of rapidly modernizing warfare. By tweaking the centuries-old tradition of ukiyo-e (woodblock printing), printmakers achieved altogether new atmospheric and light effects that were part reportage and part dazzling artistic display.

A major feature of *Flash of Light, Fog of War* is its stunning installation, which utilizes not only elegant colors to bring out visual features of the works on view, but also subtle electrical effects - including very occasional projected explosions - that underscore the thematic content. “This is a show that really must be seen and experienced,” commented Ackland Director Katie Ziglar. “We are enormously

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“Coastline” by Eric McRay

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RESOLUTIONS 2018 4th Annual Juried Show

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Scott Dwyer	John Schwartz
Jill Eberle	Suzan Scribner-Reed
Ellie Edwards-Smith	Nancy Smith
Wes Flanary	Darcy Szeremi
Ian Griffin	Sally Terrell
Morgan Harris	Lyudmila Tomova
Tomasz Hueckel	Karol Tucker
Robert Leadbetter	Chris Wagner
Judith Maier	Nancy Walker
Bonita Marks	Rose Warner
Margret Mueller	Kimberly Wheaton
James Oleson	

Awards juror, Sarah Schroth, Director of the Nasher Museum of Art will be in attendance.

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