

ARTHUR UMLAUF – SCULPTOR

UmlaufGallery.com

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About the Artist

Not so very long ago, I was a carpenter and cabinetmaker. At the age of 50, I had the opportunity to make a change in my life and I chose to begin sculpting. My formal art education has included just three courses at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and a few workshops at the Sloss Furnace and at the Birmingham Museum of Art. Overall, my most rewarding learning experiences have been under the mentorship of the late Cordray Parker, one of Birmingham's best-known and well-respected bronze sculptors. As a result of this experience, I have been able to explore the nuances of mold making, casting and pouring bronze using the lost-wax method in a relatively short apprenticeship.

In addition, I have to acknowledge the influence of my artist-family -- my brothers, my sisters as well as my late father, Charles Umlauf, a famous sculptor in his own right. I grew up in a home filled with life-size renditions of religious icons, studies of animals, figure studies and images drawn from mythology. Although art was an integral part of my early life, only in my latter years have I begun to test my ideas in bronze, ceramics, wood and stone (marble, alabaster, granite, honeycomb calcite). My strong work ethic has allowed me to fully invest myself in my artwork. I have even surprised myself by what I have been able to achieve starting with clay, wax and rough stone. Like my father, I prefer figurative work of the female form and compositions representing the family, as well as abstractions drawn from the medium itself.

Artist's Statement

When I look at the raw material, clay, wood or a stunning piece of alabaster, I take in the integrity and images within the material. The artist's challenge is to take full advantage of the natural beauty of the materials and transform it into an emotive figure or image. The artist must maintain the strength of that natural state and imbue the new object with an esthetic value that is tactile, visual and emotional.

One of the hallmarks of my work is that I am solely responsible for every step in the preparation of a sculpture. Many artists have contracts with bronze foundries to prepare molds, pour the bronze and apply patina finishes to their work. Others employ stone workers to rough out or polish marble or alabaster figures. These steps are tedious and labor intensive. However, I enjoy the labor and the creative demand of sculpting in marble, bronze and wood. In the end, the viewer is certain that every stroke and every mark is mine -- intentional and serves to convey my purpose.

Exhibits & Gallery

Umlauf Gallery & Studio, Stone Mountain, GA

Selected Shows and Professional Experience

- 2024 Atlanta Arts Center (AAC) *Renewal* Juried: Lady Reclining, ceramic; Icarus, Bronze (3rd place award)
Colony Square, *Spring Fling*, sponsored by AAC : Righteous, mixed media steel & serpentine; Brahma Bull, Bronze; Brahma Cow & Calf, Bronze
- 2023 AAC -Volunteer of the Month of November
Colony Square: (sponsored by AAC) Touch Someone, bronze; Embrace, bronze relief
Sewell Library & Cultural Center: (sponsored by AAC) The Family, cherrywood;
Red Cat, (rojo balboa) red stone
AAC: *Small Works for Christmas* (4 works)
AAC: *Looking Forward*: juried show, Family, walnut (3rd place award);
Slices of Light bronze (relief); Seed of Life (mixed media)
AAC: *Inspired*: juried show, Touch Someone, bronze; Floating Woman, Sylacauga Marble;
Abstraction B, limestone
AAC: *Renewal*: juried, Female Torso, bronze; Icarus, Ebony on serpentine marble base
- 2022 AAC: *East Meets West*: juried, Dancer Bending Back, Bronze; Sea Whale, cherry wood (3rd place award)
AAC *Spring Fling*, Mother & Child, alabaster; Seated Woman, raspberry alabaster
AAC *Inspired*: God Seed, Sylacauga marble & granite; Mother & Child, Honeycomb calcite; Madonna, Cristobal, wood
AAC *Reality to Abstraction*: Abstraction, Guanacaste wood on Sylacauga marble base
AAC *Small Works Show*: Cross of Thorns, bronze; Blue Union, ceramic; Seated Woman, hydra stone
- 2021 Marietta Cobb Museum of Art, *Metro Montage XXI*, annual national juried exhibition:
Abstract Torso, Maple over Bronze on granite base
AAC Juried Shows
Renewal: Lady Reclining, bronze; Woman in Repose, bronze
East Meets West: Male Study, bronze; Dancer in Relief, bronze;
Woman in Calcite, Honeycomb Calcite (Honorable Mention Award)
Reality Abstraction: Abstract Torso, Eucalyptus wood
- 2020 AAC Juried Shows
Renewal: Dancer, bronze
Synchronicity: Lovers, plaster (Honorable Mention Award); Horse, drift wood;
Abstraction, Utah alabaster
Reality or Abstraction: Righteous, Serpentine marble and steel (3rd Place Award);
Torso Abstract, Tasmanian eucalyptus
- 2019 AAC Juried Shows:
Renewal: The Seed, in granite, oak, bronze; Lazarus, white Sylacauga marble
Spring Fling: Touch Someone, bronze (1st Place Award); Calcite Buda, Honeycomb Calcite; Mother & Child, Honeycomb Calcite (3rd Place)

3-D Exhibit: Madonna, Bronze; Family, Cherry wood (2nd Place Award)
Synchronicity: Mother and Child, Honeycomb Calcite; Evolve, in Sylacauga marble

2018 Atlanta Artists Center & Gallery - Outdoor Installation/Loan: Unfolding, stainless steel and black granite, 35”hX26”wX14”d,

AAC Juried Shows

Animal Instincts: Max the Scottie, bronze; Cat, Rojo balboa; red alabaster;
 Siamese cat, bronze

Reality or Abstraction: What’s on His Mind, bronze; The Family, Cherry wood carving; Abstract Lovers, bronze; Fall from Grace, Stone Mountain Granite; Buddha, Honeycomb Calcite

2017 AAC Juried Show

Power Lines: Touch Someone, Bronze (Selected for show at Twin Towers)

2016 AAC Juried Show: Dancer, bronze
 Moved to Stone Mountain GA

2015 Gadsden Museum of Art, *National Juried Show*

2014 Russell Collection, Austin TX, July 1st thru August 1st, Opening July 12

2012 Russell Collection, Austin TX, *Art by Southwest:* January 27 - February 29, 2012,

2011 Russell Collection, Austin TX - Continuous showing
 Participant in the Sculpture work shop Sylacauga AL
 Seen Gallery Decatur GA - Figurative Show
 Gallery Soleil, Birmingham AL, Sept 22 through Jan 5 2012
 Shelby County Council for the Arts, Juried Show, Honorable Mention Award Sculpture
 Marble carving demonstration, Sylacauga AL

2010 Joined the Russell Collection Gallery Austin TX
 Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum, *Descendants Show*, Oct 28 2010 – Jan. 23, 2011
 Vestavia Art Association, Vestavia Hills, AL - Presentation of Work,
 Stray Art Salon, Birmingham, AL - Featured Artist,
 Comer Museum Sylacauga, AL - One Man Show,
 Stray Art Salon, Primary Artist, Hoover, AL
 Birmingham Botanical Garden (Stray Artists Group), Birmingham, AL
 Shelby County Arts Council (Stray Artists Group), Columbia, AL

2009 Stray Art Salon, Primary Artist, Hoover, AL
 The Club, Stray Artists Group, Birmingham, AL
 Lite Box Gallery, *Holiday Show*, Birmingham, AL
 Four Seasons Antiques and Art, Homewood, AL - Featured Artist - November
 Bryant Galleries, New Orleans, LA - Gallery Artist
 Blackwood Gallery, Springville, AL - Gallery Artist
 Seen Gallery, Decatur, GA - Gallery Artist
 Umlauf Gallery, 550 Shades Crest Road, Hoover, AL
Sculpture Commission – 12 castings of *Touch Someone* one for each elementary school in Hoover AL

- 2008 Joined Bryant Galleries, New Orleans, LA - Gallery Artist
Featured Artist – October, Four Seasons Antiques and Art Gallery, Homewood, AL
September Artists Show, Jennifer Harwell Gallery, Homewood, AL
Alabama's Finest, Gadsden Museum of Art, Gadsden, AL - one-man show, purchase award
2 Man Show, Soon-Bok Lee Sellers Art Gallery, Hoover, AL
Winter Arts Fair, Hoover Arts Alliance, Hoover, AL
- 2007 Joined Blackwood Gallery, Springville, AL - Gallery Artist
 Jennifer Harwell Gallery, Birmingham, AL - Gallery Artist
Art Walk, Birmingham, AL Juried
 Gadsden Museum of Art, Gadsden, AL, Juried Show, 2nd Place and Purchase Award
Magic City Art Connection, Birmingham, AL Juried Festival
Creative Visions in Motion, Four Seasons Gallery, Homewood, AL (2 person show)
Bi-State Art Competition, Meridian Museum of Art, Meridian, MS Juried
 BAA Gallery, AmSouth Harbert Center, Birmingham, AL - Gallery Artist
 Art Alley, Birmingham, AL - Gallery Artist
 Four Seasons Antiques & Art Gallery, Birmingham, AL - Gallery Artist
 The Seen Gallery, Decatur, GA - Gallery Artist
- 2006 Joined Art Alley, Birmingham, AL - Gallery Artist
Art Walk, Birmingham, AL Juried
 Four Seasons Antiques & Art, Hoover, AL - Gallery Artist, *Artist of the Month - July, 2006*
 Homewood Library Gallery, Homewood, AL June, 2006
Arts Alive - 20th Annual Juried Show, Florence, AL
 Birmingham Art Association, Birmingham, AL Juried, 2 pieces
 AmSouth Harbert Center, Birmingham, AL
One-man show, AmSouth Harbert Center, Birmingham AL
Featured Artist of the Month (March 2006), Birmingham Magazine, Birmingham, AL
 Art Auction 2006, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, AL
- 2005 Gallery 2306, Birmingham, AL (one-man show)
 The Seen Gallery, Decatur, GA - Gallery Artist
Art Walk, Birmingham, AL Juried
National View at Grandview, Atlanta Arts Center, Atlanta, GA Juried
13th Southeast Regional Fine Arts Exhibition, Fort Walton Beach, FL Juried
Animals in Art, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA (International Juried Show)
Southern Roots, Academy of Fine Arts, Birmingham, AL (Juried Show)
 2nd & 3rd place award - *Sculpture*.
 Exhibition, South Tennessee Valley Art Center, Tusculumbia, AL Juried
 Birmingham Art Association, Birmingham, AL Juried
 3rd place award - *Sculpture*
 42nd Annual Bluff Park Art Show, Hoover, AL Juried
- 2004 *Jubilee Cultural Arts Alliance* Atlanta GA, Juried -- *Art Excellence Award*
 Joined The Seen Gallery, Decatur, GA - Gallery Artist
Art by the Lake, Deerwood Lake, AL
 41st Annual Bluff Park Art Show, Hoover, AL Juried Show
Garden Party Gala, Alzheimer's Association, Birmingham, AL
Southern Roots, Alabama Academy of Fine Arts, Birmingham, AL Juried Show
 3rd place award - *Sculpture*

- Arts Alive*, Kennedy–Douglas Center for the Arts, Florence AL Juried
Bi-State Art Competition, Meridian Museum of Art, Meridian, MS Juried
 Open House - Studio and Gallery 550 Shades Crest, Hoover AL
- 2003 *40th Annual Bluff Park Art Show*, Hoover, AL Juried
Art by the Lake, Deerwood Lake, AL
Garden Party Gala, Alzheimer's Association, Birmingham, AL
Featured Artist, Birmingham Art Review, June 2003 (premier issue)
Southern Roots, Alabama Academy of Fine Arts, Birmingham, AL Juried
1st place award - Sculpture
Membership Show - Birmingham Art Association Gallery, Juried
1st and 2nd place award - Sculpture
 Open House -- Studio and Gallery 550 Shades Crest, Hoover AL
- 2002 *Southern Roots*, Alabama Academy of Fine Arts, Birmingham, AL Juried
3rd place Award in Sculpture
 Artist Interview, "The Other Side" WEAB-TV, Birmingham, AL
Garden Party Gala - Alzheimer's Association, Birmingham, AL
Annual Members Show, Birmingham Art Association Gallery Juried
 Board Member, Birmingham Art Association Gallery
 Open House -- Studio and Gallery 550 Shades Crest, Hoover AL
- 2001 – 2002 President, Birmingham Art Association
- 2001 *One and Two Dimensions II* (2-person show) Birmingham Art Association Gallery
Winter Members Show, Birmingham Art Association Gallery
Spring Members Show, Birmingham Art Association Gallery
Garden Party Gala, Alzheimer's Association, Birmingham, AL
Membership Show, Birmingham Art Association Gallery Juried
Featured Artist (September, 2001), Birmingham Magazine
Bronze Artists Exhibition, Durbin Gallery, Birmingham-Southern College, Birmingham, AL
Fall Membership Show, Birmingham Art Association Gallery
- 2000 *One and Two Dimensions* (2 person show) Birmingham Art Association Gallery
Artist of the Month (April 2000), Shelby County Library, Shelby, AL
Garden Party Gala, Alzheimer's Association, Birmingham, AL
Spring Members Show, Birmingham Art Association Gallery
Membership Show, Birmingham Art Association Gallery Juried Show
 Board Member, Birmingham Art Association
- 1999 *Membership Show*, Birmingham Art Association Gallery Juried Show
Women's Shelter Gala, Alabama Theater, Birmingham, AL
- 1998 Finished building my Gallery and Studio at 550 Shades Crest Rd
- 1997 Visual Arts Gallery, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Juried Student Show
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