

Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition

Art Focus

Oklahoma

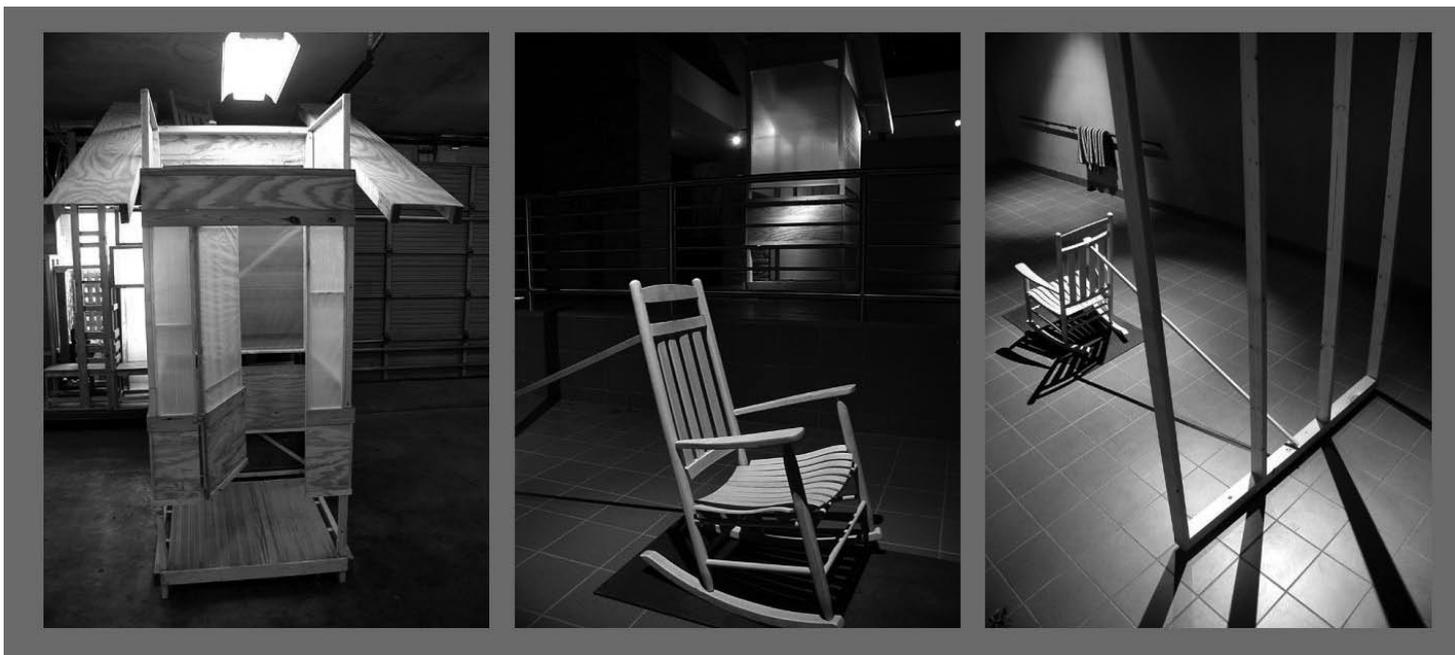
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Anita Fields

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A Spirit
of Giving



Glenn Herbert Davis, Tulsa
Uncarnate
 Mixed Plastics, Woods, Miscellaneous
 Dimensions Variable

OVAC Awards of Excellence 2006

by Lori Oden

Give me the green. No bling, just the green. Moo-la. Cash-oh-la. A cool, crisp Ben Franklin. Cold, hard cash. Any way you want to say it, we all need cash.

The Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition supports Oklahoma professional visual artists. Each year OVAC issues these four major awards. They are intended to recognize past achievement and future promise and can be used as the artist's needs require.

OVAC invites a national curator each year to decide one Fellowship and three Awards of Excellence. This gives Oklahoma artists exposure outside of Oklahoma and introduces Oklahoma talent to curators across the nation. The 2006 guest curator was Bill Goldston. Goldston operates the Universal Limited Art Editions (ULAE) in New York City as the owner and master printer. In 1969, Goldston went to the ULAE print studio on Long Island as a student of printer Zigmunds Priede. After the death of founder Tatyana Grosman's husband, Goldston began running the studio and the business. Since coming under Goldston's leadership, ULAE has seen expansion, experimentation and a new direction. Goldston has worked closely in the studio with some of the most famous artists of our time such as Lee Bontecou, Jim Dine, Sam Francis, Helen Frankenthaler, R. Buckminster Fuller, Jasper Johns, Robert Motherwell, Elizabeth Murray, Claes Oldenburg, Robert Rauschenberg, Larry Rivers, James Rosenquist, Susan Rothenberg, Ed Ruscha, Kiki Smith, Cy Twombly, Terry Winters and more. He has spoken internationally about printmaking and the ULAE collection. Goldston grew up in Lindsey, Oklahoma.

Out of 64 entries, Goldston chose Awards of Excellence recipients: Martha Williford Avrett of Stillwater, Kjelshus Collins and Sarah Williams of Oklahoma City and Glenn Herbert Davis of Tulsa for the Fellowship award. A total of \$11,000 big-ones for Oklahoma artists!

Goldston wrote, "The quality of the art submitted illuminates the artistic spirit of Oklahoma: deliberately determined, bold in its honesty and unafraid of any means to its creation. I have made the selection this year recipients, based on a creative approach to diverse media and have chosen artists who work with jewelry, photography, ceramics and three-dimensional mixed media constructions. It was with great pleasure and enlightenment I viewed all the applicants and their work. It is through their continued creative efforts that Oklahoma remains an oasis of artistic and cultural heritage."

The recipient of the Oklahoma Visual Arts Fellowship must perform a public service activity with a community-based, non-profit organization in Oklahoma. The fellowship recipient must submit a final report on the fellowship year and public service event.

About the Artists

Glenn Herbert Davis earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Minnesota in Journalism with a photograph emphasis. In May 2000 he graduated from the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield, Michigan with a Master of Fine Arts in photography and additional study in sculpture. Currently he is an assistant professor and head of the photography area at the University of Tulsa. His installations were inspired by his work as a designer, fabricator, cabinetmaker, framing and finish carpenter. He started this type of work in 1986 and continues it today. According to his artist statement, Glenn is in the process of, "continuing study of the theoretical and practical relationships between the individual human body and systems – as incorporated in regiments of physical labor, vernacular furniture and utility architecture – engaged in primarily through the design and construction of varied, furnished buildings, using criteria based on physical limitations." Photography plays a role in his installations as illustrated instructional manuals.

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