



AUSTEN BRANTLEY

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1600 Clay Street, Unit 106, Detroit, MI 48211

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 Upcoming August/September 2024: *Wounds*, M Contemporary, Detroit, MI
- 2023 *MUSE*, The Carr Center Gallery, Detroit, MI
- 2022 *Coarse*, Madison College, Madison WI
- 2021 *Behind the Mask*, Norwest Gallery of Art, Detroit, MI
- 2016 Wayne Community College, Detroit, MI
- 2015 822 Gallery, Royal Oak, MISOLO EXHIBITIONS



SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 London Art Biennale, Selected Artist
Regional Biennial Group Show, Marshall Fredricks Sculpture Museum
Shapes of Influence, Springfield Art Association, Springfield, IL
National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) Conference, Cincinnati, OH
- 2022 *Here & Now*, Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park & Museum, Hamilton, OH
Carroll Harris Simms National Black Art Competition and Exhibition, Dallas African American Museum of Art, Dallas, TX
93rd Michigan Contemporary Art Exhibition, Muskegon Museum of Art, Muskegon, MI
Young Sculptors Exhibition, National Sculptors Society
- 2021 *Anything Goes*, Gutman Gallery, Ann Arbor, MI
Regional Biennial Juried Exhibition, Marshall Fredricks Sculpture Museum, Saginaw, MI
- 2020 *Visions of Detroit*, curated by Jennifer Evans, Charles H. Wright Museum, Detroit, MI
Art of Soul, National Afro-American Museum, Wilberforce, OH
- 2019 Charles H. Wright African American History Museum Art Auction
- 2017 Harlem Fine Arts Show, Chicago, IL
- 2016 *30 Americans*, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI
- 2014 Art Prize, Grand Rapids, MI (*Cocoon Unleashed* was selected as part of commercial advertisement for the event)

SELECTED ART FAIRS AND RESIDENCIES

- 2023 Artist residency/public commission with the City of Madison, WI
- 2018 Art Expo New York, New York, NY
Rome Art Workshops Residency, Rome, Italy

AWARDS

- 2023 Visual Arts Fellow, Kresge Arts, Detroit, MI
National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) Emerging Artist Fellowship
27th Carroll Harris Simms Sculpture Award, Dallas African American Museum of Art, Dallas, TX
- 2022 Eleanor Smith Michigan Potters Guild Award, Muskegon Museum of Art, Muskegon, MI
- 2021 Honorable Mention, Regional Biennial Exhibition, Marshall Fredricks Sculpture Museum, Saginaw, MI
- 2018 Honorable Mention, Black Creativity Juried Art Exhibition, Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, IL
- 2017 Gilda Award winner, Kresge Arts, Detroit, MI
Winner, Michigan Fine Arts Competition, Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, Bloomfield Hills, MI

EDUCATION

- 2015 Oakland Community College, Oakland, MI
- 2013 San Francisco Academy of Art University, San Francisco, CA; Berkley High School, Berkley, MI

SELECTED PRESS

- Trussoni, Isaac, "Detroit artist Austen Brantley returns to Madison to create a sculpture for Madison's Darbo-Worthington neighborhood," *Madison 365*, June 7, 2023
- Green, Randiah Camille, "Detroit sculptor Austen Brantley to build statue honoring late Tuskegee Airman Alexander Jefferson," *Detroit Metro Times*, October 4, 2022
- Dunn, Patrick, "Austen Brantley: The Quiet Sculptor," *SEEN Magazine*, June 30, 2022
- Benberry, Blake, "BLAC Artist of the Week: Austen Brantley- Figurative Sculptor and Native Detroiter," *BLAC Detroit*, January 28, 2022.
- Feighan, Maureen, "Eight Detroit Artists to Watch in 2022," *The Detroit News*, January 4, 2022.
- Hinds, Julie, "She's a civil rights icon you likely never heard of. Now her statue will be seen in Detroit," *Detroit Free Press*, April 11, 2019









4 life size figures
Male and female
and two young
males

“Rebuilding the legacy”

Bronze, acrylic bronze
patina conveying a
classics French bronze
finish

Sculpture sits on top
bronze mound that
depicts sand mound that
conveys a family at the
beach

Granite base is 6ft long
and 3ft high



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June 30, 2023

Eilen R Stewart
Cultural Arts Manager
The City of Manhattan Beach, California

Re: Bruce's Beach Request for Proposals

Dear Ms. Stewart,

It is with great pleasure that I submit *Rebuilding the Legacy* for consideration for permanent installation at historic Bruce's Beach Park in Manhattan Beach, California. Since 2019, I have designed numerous bronze sculptures of similar scope for permanent installation, working with cities across the Midwest and the East Coast to create art that recognizes and celebrates black people and their contributions to this nation.

Past projects highlighted in this application include *Ernest Burke Statue* (former Negro League baseball player, Havre De Grace, MD) and *Viola Liuzzo Memorial* (Civil Rights Activist, Detroit, MI). Both of these commissioned works have required similar community participation and feedback processes before the design is unveiled for public consumption. I look forward to the opportunity to work with the City of Manhattan Beach in a similar vein to create a monument that is significant and long-lasting.

For me, sculpture is life itself and I see this opportunity at Bruce's Beach as one of great importance, a chance to commemorate and continue a safe haven for black people for many generations to come. The design for this project, as with many of my works, is meant to invoke a sense of calm and serenity for the onlooker. The black family unit, sitting together overlooking the ocean, represents a facet of American culture with impacts as vast as the sea beyond.

My pieces manufactured for permanent outdoor installation are done so using an acrylic bronze patina such that long-term maintenance costs are very low. The sculpture will only require washing and cleaning with soap and water at least once a year. Whenever possible, please contact me should any repairs be needed as I am available for consultation and restoration of my work. The sturdy design, however, is not likely to sustain many types of damage besides any potential vandalism, in which case soap and water or any mild paint stripper can be used for removal of graffiti.

Thank you for reviewing my application and the opportunity to see this vision come to life.

Kindest regards,

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Annotated Image List for Portfolio

Title of artwork: *Boy Holds Flower*

Dimensions: approximately 28 x 18 x 14 inches

Materials: Bronze and granite base

Date of completion: September 2021

Location: East Canfield Pavilion Park (Detroit, MI)

Budget: \$25,000

Commissioning/Purchasing Entity: East Canfield Consortium

Title of artwork: *Ernest Burke Statue*

Dimensions: approximately 6.4 x 2 x 2 feet

Materials: Bronze and granite base

Date of completion: June 2021

Location: Millard Tydings Memorial Park (Havre De Grace, MD)

Budget: \$80,000

Commissioning/Purchasing Entity: Ernest Burke Sculpture Committee

Title of artwork: *Viola Liuzzo Memorial*

Dimensions: approximately 5 x 3 x 3 feet (including base)

Materials: Bronze and granite base

Date of completion: July 2019

Location: Viola Liuzzo Playground (Detroit, MI)

Budget: \$50,000

Commissioning/Purchasing Entity: Viola Liuzzo Park Association

Title of artwork: *Walking Together*

Dimensions: 4 x 3 x 3 feet

Materials: Bronze and limestone base

Date of completion: unveiling to be held July 15, 2023

Location: Berkley Hight School (Berkley, MI)

Budget: \$25,000

Commissioning/Purchasing Entity: City of Berkley

Title of artwork: *Mountain*

Dimensions: 32 x 14 x 14 inches

Materials: Bronze and base

Date of completion: installation scheduled for August 2023

Location: Book Tower Detroit

Budget: \$13,000

Commissioning/Purchasing Entity: Bedrock Detroit

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Title of artwork: *The Three Graces*

Dimensions: 28 x 8 x 12 inches

Materials: Ceramic

Date of Completion: 2022

Location: African American Museum of Dallas

Budget: n/a

Commissioning/Purchasing Entity: African American Museum of Dallas

Budget Worksheet

Item	Cost
Artist fee	\$87,500
Clay modeling fabrication	\$110,000
Bronze mold making and casting	\$97,000
Granite base	\$15,000
Crating and shipping	\$5,000
Cement foundation and installation	\$10,000
Travel	\$5,000
Permits/fees	\$10,000
Contingency	\$10,000
Long-term Care/Maintenance	\$500 (approximate annual cost)
Total budget for artwork:	\$350,000

References from Previous Public Art Projects

Kimely Theus, Founder, Canfield Consortium (re: *Boy Holds Flower*)
917.721.5655 // kimtheus@yahoo.com

James McFarland, Professor of Art + Design, Ernest Burke Statue Committee Member
443.412.2247 // jmcfarla@harford.edu

Colette Mezza, Viola Liuzzo Playground Board Member
586.944.5956 // colettemezza@gmail.com

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Additional Description of Proposal

My bronze sculpture depicts a black family at peace on a beach, symbolizing their journey of rebuilding and reclaiming their legacy. The sculpture captures a moment of tranquility and unity, as the family members are seen engaging with one another in harmonious moments of relaxation and connection. The figures in the sculpture exude a sense of contentment and serenity, basking in the warmth of the sun and the soothing sounds of crashing waves.

The artwork serves as a powerful representation of the resilience and strength of the black community, highlighting their ability to find solace and peace despite facing historical and ongoing challenges, at Bruce's Beach and beyond. The use of bronze as the medium for this sculpture adds depth and endurance to its message since bronze, a copper alloy, is known for its durability and resistance to atmospheric corrosion. Its ability to withstand the test of time reflects the enduring spirit of black families and their determination to rebuild and preserve their legacy.



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