

TOM FRUIN

STUDIO



240

6TH ST. IN GOWANUS
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

11215



Tom Fruin (born 1974, Los Angeles) is a contemporary American sculptor. He currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York City. Fruin graduated from University of California, Santa Barbara with a BA in 1996. Known for his large-scale installations, Fruin most commonly uses steel and highly colored plexiglass to create monumental sculptures referencing local building structures. He describes his drive to make art that is publicly accessible, as well as sustainable by working with reclaimed materials and alternative energy. Fruin's largest installation to date, the Watertower series, is installed on multiple rooftops across New York City and around the country. Other large-scale work has been exhibited in public plazas in Prague, Vienna, Copenhagen, South Korea, and throughout the United States.



Tom Fruin

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resume

Born 1974 in Los Angeles, California.
Lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

installations / exhibitions

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STREET MINISTRY, HI 5 TAXICAB, ICON FACTORY, ICON HOUSE: Public sculpture installation, Home in Hoboken, Hoboken, NJ, December 2022 - March 2023
BOMBORA HOUSE: Museum Exhibition, Museum of the city of New York, Food in New York: Bigger than the Plate, New York City
September 17, 2022 - September 30, 2023
DAYLIGHT/NIGHTLIGHT: New Product Launch, Joya Studio, Brooklyn, NY, October 26, 2022 - Nov 9, 2022
STREET MINISTRY: Public sculpture installation, ArtsWestchester - Serious Fun Arts Fest, Westchester, NY, October 2022 - November 2022
HI 5 TAXICAB: Public sculpture installation, FireFly Music Festival, Dover, DE, September 22, 2022 - September 25, 2022
FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA: Public sculpture installation, Pier 17 South Street Seaport, New York City, May 31, 2022 - September 2022
PHONEBOOTH: Public sculpture installation, IAPP Conference, Washington DC, April 10, 2022 - April 14, 2022
CAMOUFLAGE HOUSE 1/3, Unique Coloring: Public sculpture installation, The Heidelberg Project, Detroit, MI, March 2022 - August 2022

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CAMOUFLAGE HOUSE 1/3: Outdoor sculpture installation, Light! at the Gaylord Rockies Resort, Aurora, CO, November 2021 - March 2022
ALL ACCESS PASS HOUSE & OTHER WORKS: Public sculpture installation, Enchanted Festival of Light at Descanso Gardens, Los Angeles, CA,
November 2021 - January 2022
WATERTOWER 7: Permanent sculpture installation, The Barns Art Center, Hopewell Junction, NY, September 2021
CAMOUFLAGE HOUSE (AP): Outdoor sculpture installation, Art Renzei Festival, Long Beach, CA, September 2021
KALEIDOSCOPE: Permanent sculpture installation, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Cincinnati, OH, July 2021
CAMOUFLAGE HOUSE 1/3: Unique Coloring, Outdoor, sculpture installation, Beekman 1802 Farm, Sharon Springs, NY,
May 2021 - October 2021
CAMOUFLAGE HOUSE AP: Outdoor sculpture installation, Lake Cachuma Recreation Area, Santa Barbara, CA, January 2021 - September 2021
BOMBORA HOUSE: Outdoor sculpture installation, Gansevoort Plaza, New York, NY, December 16, 2020 - April 30, 2021
CAMOUFLAGE HOUSE 1/3: Outdoor sculpture installation, Light! at Gaylord Rockies Resort, Aurora, CO, November 19, 2020 - February, 2021
CAMOUFLAGE HOUSE: Outdoor sculpture installation, Elings Park, Santa Barbara, CA, September 2020 - January 2021
MAXIKIOSCO: Outdoor public sculpture installation, Summit Public Art, Summit, New Jersey September 2020 - September 2021

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TRASH PIECE: Indoor permanent sculpture installation, The Dime, Brooklyn, New York City. July 2020
CAMOUFLAGE HOUSE: Outdoor sculpture installation. Arroyo Burro Beach County Park, Santa Barbara, California. June 2020
CAMOUFLAGE HOUSE: Outdoor sculpture installation. Laguna Beach City Hall, Laguna Beach, California. January - May 2020

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CAMOUFLAGE HOUSE: Outdoor sculpture installation. Descanso Gardens, Los Angeles, California. November 2019 - January 2020
MAXIKIOSCO: Outdoor sculpture installation, Helen Day Art Center, Stowe, Vermont. July - October 2019
WATERTOWER 7: Indoor sculpture installation. Empire Stores, New York, New York. May - June 2019
CAMOUFLAGE HOUSE: Indoor sculpture installation. Empire Stores, New York, New York. May - June 2019
MAXIKIOSCO: Outdoor sculpture installation, DUMBO Empire Stores. May - June 2019
WATERTOWER 9: Permanent sculpture installation. Lincoln, NE. May 2019
SAIL: Permanent sculpture installation. Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Long Island, NY. May 2019
PLINTH: Permanent sculpture installation. Alexandria, VA. February 2019
WATERTOWER 8: Permanent sculpture installation, Oakland, CA. January 2019

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WATERTANK: Permanent sculpture installation, One Broadway at MIT, Cambridge, MA. August 2018
ODUMAK: Permanent sculpture installation, Jeju, South Korea. July 2018
GRATIOT GATE & GRAND RIVER GATE: Two outdoor permanent sculpture installations, The Belt, Detroit. March 2018

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LUZ DE MAXIKIOSCO: Outdoor sculpture installation, Queens Crossing, New York, December 1, 2017 - January 30 2018
Unaffiliate(us): Art Basel Miami/Scope, December 5-10, 2017
COAKLEY BROTHERS WATERTOWER (WATERTOWER 6): Outdoor permanent sculpture installation, Coakley Brothers, Milwaukee, September 2017
WALL MURALS: Two indoor permanent sculpture installation, The Jackson, Queens, New York
City Solo exhibition in The Archway, DUMBO, Brooklyn, June 8, 2017
WINDMILL: Outdoor permanent sculpture installation, Forth Worth, Texas, February 2017,

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Solo show: Galerie Heike Curtze und Petra Seiser, Salzburg and Vienna, Austria, July 25 - August; December 2016
COLOR STUDY: Mike Weiss Gallery, New York, September 4 - October 18, 2014
KOLONIHAVEHUS: Outdoor sculpture installation, Domino Sugar Factory, North Brooklyn Farms Park, installed June 2016
FRESH PRODUCE: Paul Loya Gallery, Los Angeles, CA. May 28 - June 18, 2016
WATERTOWER 5: THE GREENPOINT WATERTOWER: Outdoor permanent sculpture installation, Williamsburg, Brooklyn
LAKE HOUSE: Outdoor permanent public sculpture installation, Lake Nona, Florida

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THEATER: Permanent outdoor sculpture installation, St. Ann's Warehouse, Brooklyn, NY
WATERTOWER 2: Outdoor sculpture installation, Gowanus Canal at Degraw and Bond Streets, Brooklyn
WATERTOWER 4 DUTCH MASTERS: Permanent installation, Private Collection, New Orleans, LA
FENCE: Permanent outdoor sculpture installation, 4 Downing Street Brooklyn, NY

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WATERTOWER 3 R.V. INGERSOLL: Public sculpture installation, Brooklyn Bridge Park Pier 5, December 2014 - ongoing
KOLONIHAVEHUS: Outdoor sculpture installation, Brooklyn Bridge Park (near Jane's Carousel), September 2014 - June 2015
KOLONIHAVEHUS: Public sculpture installation with CoreAct, DUMBO Arts Festival, September 26-28, 2014
COLOR STUDY: Mike Weiss Gallery, New York, September 4 - October 18, 2014
MAXIKIOSCO: Sculpture installation, Wythe Hotel, June 27-29, 2014

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WATERTOWER 2: Public sculpture installation, Brooklyn Bridge Park, May 10-12, 2013

Locals Only, Paul Loya Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Sketches in Steel, Galerie Heike Curtze, Vienna, Austria

KOLONIHAVEHUS: Public sculpture installation with CoreAct, Helsingborg, Sweden, February 9-16, 2013

KOLONIHAVEHUS: Public sculpture installation with CoreAct, Kongekajen, Helsingør, Denmark, February 2-7, 2013

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KOLONIHAVEHUS: Public sculpture installation with CoreAct, Museums Quartier, Vienna, Austria, November 2012 - January 2013

KOLONIHAVEHUS: Public sculpture installation with CoreAct, Helsingør, Denmark, July 31 - August 4, 2012

WATERTOWER 1: Outdoor sculpture installation, Brooklyn, NY

HOTEL: Permanent outdoor sculpture installation, Wythe Hotel, Brooklyn, NY

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OBELISCO: Permanent sculpture installation, Centro Metropolitano de Diseño, Buenos Aires, Argentina

MAXIKIOSCO: Sculpture installation, ArteBA 2011, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Starfields, Galerie Heike Curtze, Vienna, Austria

Signs of the Times, Y Gallery, New York, NY

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KOLONIHAVEHUS: Outdoor sculpture installation, Royal Danish Library, Copenhagen, Denmark; Nordkraft, Aalborg, Denmark [2011];

Prague National Theater, Czech Republic

Tom Fruin - Herve Graumann, Galerie Bertrand Gruner, Geneva, Switzerland

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2009 Hunter and Gatherer: TOMAK + Tom Fruin, Galerie Heike Curtze, Berlin, Germany

52 Pick Up, Galerie Heike Curtze, Vienna, Austria

2008 American Landscapes, Real Art Ways Museum, Connecticut, USA

Structured Settlement, BUIA Gallery, New York, NY, USA

2007 Hastle Whitey, Galerie Bertrand & Gruner, Geneva

2006 One Man's Treasure, Judy Ann Goldman Fine Art, Boston, MA

2005 Cultural Narcotics, Thom Andriola / New Gallery, Houston, TX

The Straight Dope, Galerie Heike Curtze, Austria

2003 Starfucker, Mike Weiss Gallery, New York, NY

2002 Cultural Narcotics: The Straight Dope, Stefan Stux Gallery, New York, NY

2001 Cultural Narcotics, Stefan Stux Gallery, New York, NY

permanent collections

San Diego Art Museum, San Diego, California

The Museum of the City of New York, New York, NY

The Hanck Collection at the Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf, Germany

Wythe Hotel, 80 Wythe Avenue, Brooklyn, NY

Richard J. Massey Foundation for Arts and Sciences, New York, NY

Eileen S. Kaminsky Family Foundation, New York, NY

The Davis Museum and Cultural Center, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA

Chambers Hotel, 13 West 56th Street, New York, NY

Buenos Aires Design Center (Centro Metropolitano de Diseño), Buenos Aires, Argentina

Xavier Gonzalez-Florenzano, Artyshow, Barcelona

The Palm Springs Art Museum

Patrick Stewart, Willem Dafoe and numerous private collections

Letter of Interest and Maintenance Plan [TO EDIT]

Manhattan Beach is a special town, and it was an amazing place to grow up. I'm happy to see my hometown taking a proactive stance on racial injustices that mar our identity as a naturally beautiful city for everyone to enjoy.

Being from the community, I have a unique local perspective and an inherent interest in contributing to the conversation of inclusion and diversity as we move forward in acknowledging the past and forging a positive future for all people. In my artwork, I attempt to transform overlooked structures to give them new meaning, so people see their surroundings afresh with a new perspective. I propose a dazzling and vibrantly colorful glass Lifeguard Station Sculpture as an artistic focus of the park and memorial for Bruce's Beach.

The structure's transparency celebrates the variety of human experience through pattern, color, and texture. The seemingly fragile and humble material salvaged acrylic and glass material glows in the beach sun and provides a beautiful space for healing while the artwork's viewing platform literally affords a new perspective on the surroundings and offers a moment of solace and reflection on the history of the site.

A lifeguard tower is literally a safe haven for the Lifeguard, who protects and rescues us from the dangers of the environment. In this symbolic sculptural environment, it will represent the concept that we, as a society, look after one another in an equitable and fair manner- keeping our important and unique stories intact. A lasting visual reminder of the events that led to this day and suggest a permanence and strength moving forward, cementing a position of strong diversity, equity, and inclusion for all.

The sculpture's materials will need only occasional cleaning, and no other upkeep. Many of my monumental sculptures have been in the public realm for ten years without needing any special maintenance other than occasional repainting the structural steel components with a commercially available rust preventative such as Rustoleum oil-based paint. Each uniquely shaped and colored window is individually laser cut out of sheet material and assigned a unique "address" for its individual location within the sculpture. If the material should fail in any way or is vandalized, a new piece can be cut and shipped for replacement on site.

We are in the beginning stages of ideation and can hope to make decisions of patterning and coloring in partnership with the community. A particular color scheme might be chosen to reflect the feelings at sunset, or a specific pattern could be used to offer a historical perspective of the site.

Thank You,





Lifeguard Station View 01

Proposed Artwork

Lifeguard Beacon: a transparent life-size sculpture of Manhattan Beach's iconic lifeguard station.

Scaled to 14 feet square with an accessible ramp projecting 20 feet by 5 feet, a 9 feet base is topped with an 11-foot structure making the entire piece 20 feet tall: 20'H x 14'W x 34'D. The ramp and walkways are constructed from a durable weight-bearing material to allow people to experience the work and engagement in a unique and personal way to foster introspection and growth. Since it is largely transparent, it will not have the visual weight of such a monumental sculpture. The dazzling beach sun will make the tower come brilliantly alive and project prismatic shadows in the park. As directed by the engineers, I will use structural steel as the main construction material. It will be bolted together wherever possible for ease of transportation and to avoid welding on site. For maximum durability, the artwork panels are powder coated laser cut stainless steel with outdoor sign-grade acrylic, designed to withstand the elements.

I will use salvaged and responsible materials, and fabricate the entire piece in my Brooklyn studio, everything sited in this naturally beautiful location near the ocean must be environmentally sensitive.

If electricity is possible, An interactive lighting system, controlled by a custom designed Arduino, could transform the work into a beacon of color at night. I'd also incorporate an interactive texting feature that would communicate the history of the site and send messages of hope directly to the viewers. These messages can be changed over time to transmit other relevant information and to further educate and inform the community.



Lifeguard Station View 02



Lifeguard Station View 03



Proposed Location of Lifeguard Structure

The Lifeguard structure could be placed on any graded surface within Bruce's Beach: I've indicated an off-center position near Highland that would not disrupt the sea views of the surrounding homes. Ideally the sculpture will have some visibility from the street, so passersby are drawn into the historic site. The specific placement would be determined with community input.

Dimensions: 20'H x 14'W x 34'D (including Accessible Ramp)

Previous Sculptures

The roots of my artistic expression began upon my arrival in New York City from California in 1996. I started exploring the concept of community engagement, urban regeneration and development. I wanted to tell the authentic story of specific communities, and to create works of art that accurately reflected each individual neighborhood. My earliest sculptural installations had the appearance of large quilts or flags, which were fabricated from the detritus of the communities I was exploring.

As my artistic practice has evolved, so has this engagement. Since 2010 I have created a series of art works called ICONs. These ICONs are monumental, public, art works that have become beacons for the communities in which they live.

The central tenet of the ICON series is to consider the people who live and work in a neighborhood and reimagine the buildings that surround them, specifically those architectural types so familiar that they are overlooked. By presenting everyday structures in a new way, I am creating works that refocus attention back on the original. The ICON series now comprises houses, watertowers, windmills, artistic signage, and other common and iconic structures, all of significant scale.

My artworks are purposefully placed in highly trafficked areas and visible both from within specific communities and the wider public. For example, within New York City, two of my large scale Watertower artworks are visible from multiple vantage points from the water as well as by car, subway, bike and pedestrian commuters.

The artworks are fabricated from highly-colored acrylic and steel. During the day the artworks cast a colored shadow and they are lit from within at night. Each sculptural artwork is comprised of a number of individual elements fabricated from a variety of distinctive materials and varying levels of technological sophistication. I use industrial grade, durable materials to solve engineering challenges. The artworks are typically created using recycled acrylic and reclaimed steel. It is my intention to repurpose and incorporate discarded materials.

I want to present a profoundly optimistic message - that discarded elements once seen as waste can be transformed into positive and progressive symbols.



Watertower 1, 2012



Watertower 1, 2012

Watertower 1

20 Jay Street, DUMBO, Brooklyn

Two Trees development

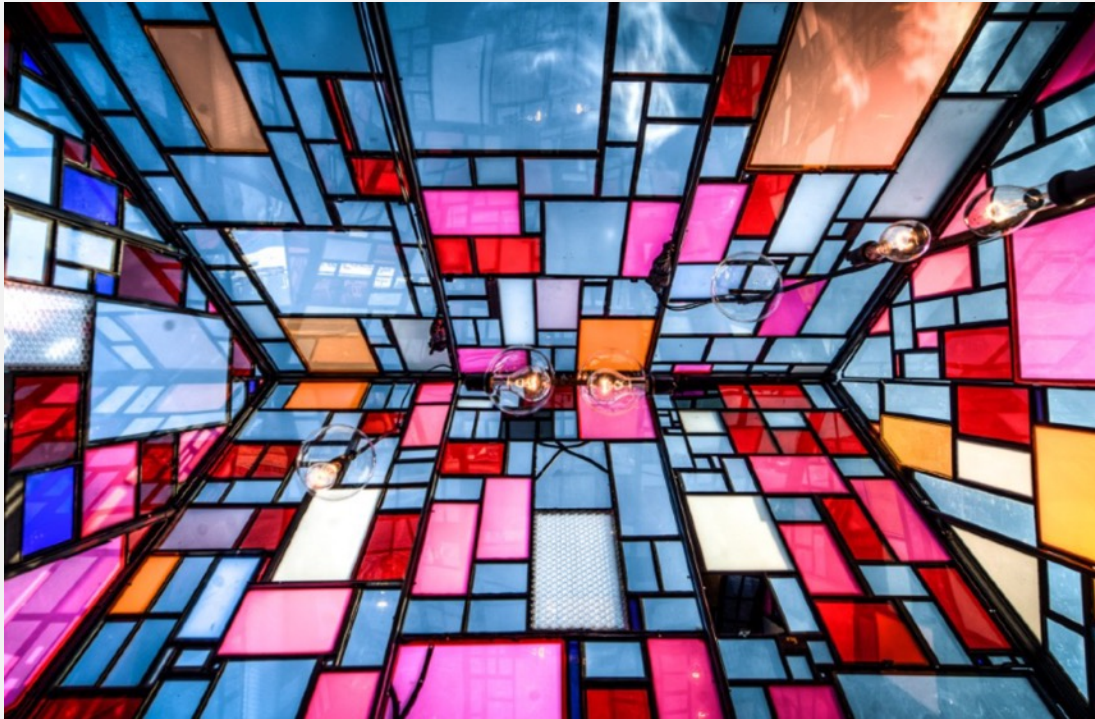
2012

found acrylic, steel, bolts

20 x 10 x 10 feet



Kolonihavehus, 2011



Kolonihavehus , 2011

Kolonihavehus

Danish Government (Statsministeriet) and
international commissioning agencies
USA, Denmark, Czech Republic, Sweden

various installations 2011-present.

found acrylic, steel, paint, programmed lights

12 x 12 x 14 feet



Watertower 2, 2013



Watertower 2 2013

Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin
ULINE Corporate headquarters

2013

found acrylic, steel, bolts

24 x 10 x 10 feet



Hi5 Taxicab House, 2022



Hi5 Taxicab House, 2022

on tour

recent stops:

FireFly Music Festival, Dover, DE, 2022

South Street Seaport, NYC 2022

Hoboken, New Jersey 2022 - 2023

2022

welded steel, acrylic and found signage, paint,
hardware, led lights.

10 x 8 x 8 feet



Watertower 3, 2014



Watertower 3, 2014

Watertower 3: R. V. INGERSOLL

334 Furman Street, Brooklyn Bridge Park
Two Trees development

2014

salvaged acrylic, steel, solar panels,
computer controlled LED

22 x 10 x 10 feet



Windmill, 2017



Windmill, 2017

Windmill
Clearfork, Fort Worth
Simon Cassco Development

February 2017
acrylic, steel
40 x 10 feet



Watertower 6, 2017



Coakley Brothers Watertower 6

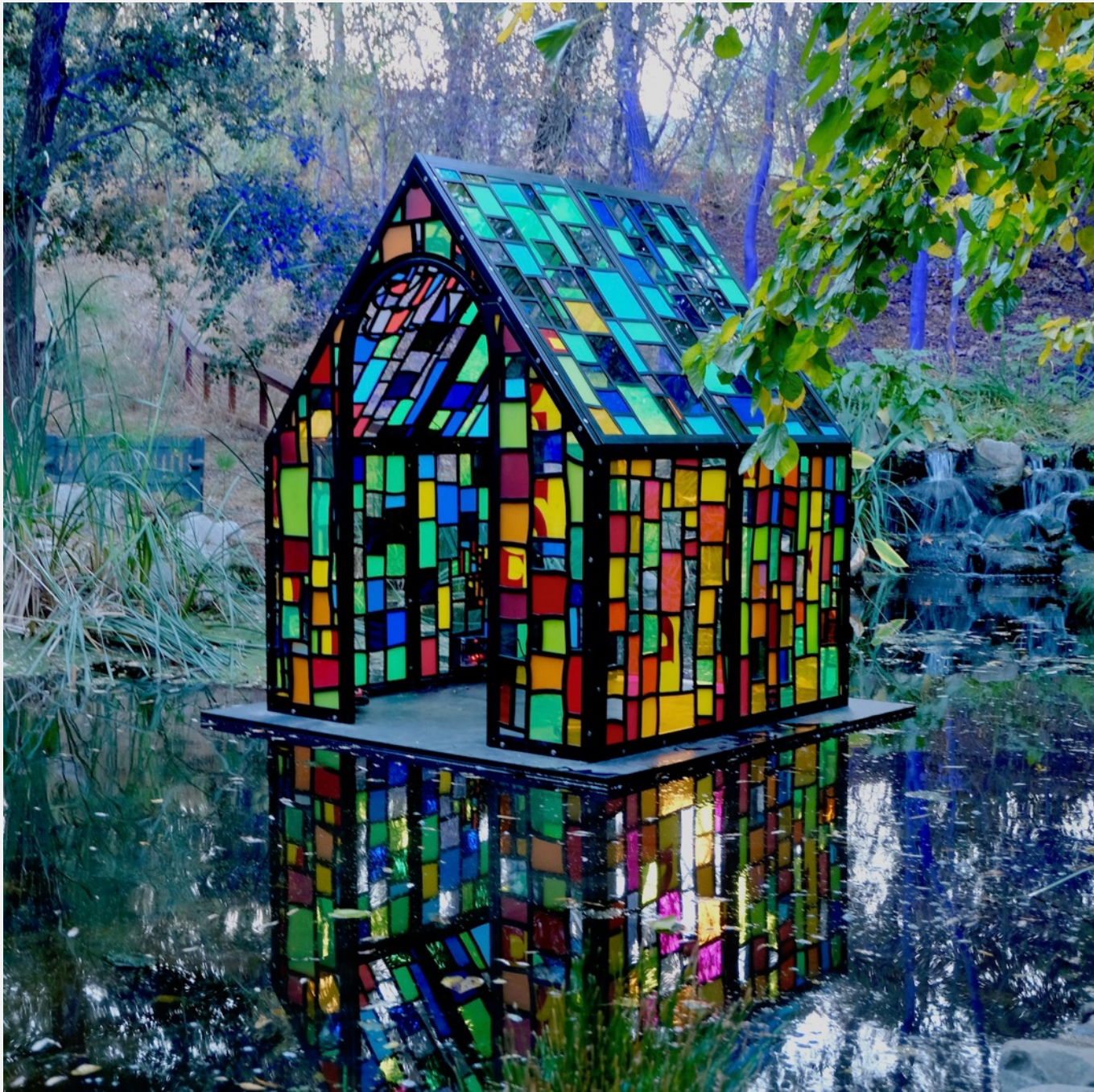
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Coakley Brothers

September 2017

found acrylic, steel, bolts

21 x 19 on a 40-foot pedestal



Camouflage House, 2019



Camouflage House

on tour

recent stops:

Hudson Yards, New York City 2019

Descanso Gardens, California 2019

Laguna Beach City Hall, California 2020

Santa Barbara, California 2020 - 2021

Descanso Gardens, California 2021 - present

June 2019

acrylic, steel

8 x 7 x 7 feet

Budget Worksheet

To be filled out by each applicant and submitted with application

Item	Cost
Artist fee (not to exceed 25% of budget)	\$60,000
Materials	\$60,000
Fabrication	\$116,000
Installation	\$25,000
Transportation/delivery	\$15,000
Engineering cost/study	\$15,000
Permits/fees	\$5,000
Geological/site survey	\$5,000
Foundation/concrete work	\$10,000
Contingency (not to exceed 10% of budget)	\$35,000
Lighting	\$4,000
Total budget for artwork:	\$350,000

Note: Be sure to include any additional fees not listed in this chart



Watertower 1 (2012)

welded steel, salvaged acrylic, paint, hardware, LED programmed lights
20 x 10 x 10 feet

This Watertower has become a visual touchstone and iconic stand-in for the Dumbo neighborhood in Brooklyn. Jutting out of the skyline amidst billboards and other water towers, the sculpture's striking colors and composition commands attention from the Manhattan Bridge's cars, trains and bicyclists and is illuminated at night by Arduino controlled custom light sequences that seem to give the piece a life of its own. Only viewable from afar, the Watertower has an almost dreamlike quality that passersby crane their necks to see.

DUMBO Brooklyn, NY
Two Trees Development
\$150,000



Kolonihavehus (2010)

welded steel, salvaged acrylic, paint, hardware, programmed LED lights
2010 14 x 12 x 12 feet

As the first piece in the Icon series, the Kolonihavehus sculpture is the prototype on which all subsequent works have been informed. Scrap salvaged acrylic framed in steel and composed in the style of a crazy quilt combine to make an object demanding attention. This piece has been exhibited extensively throughout Europe in Austria, Vienna, Denmark and Sweden and has been on near continuous display for the last 7 years at the Brooklyn Bridge Park and North Brooklyn Farms at Domino Park.

Brooklyn, New York
Danish Government (Statsministeriet)
\$200,000



Watertower 2 (2013)

found acrylic, steel, bolts
24 x 10 x 10 feet

This private institutional client (ULINE) attempted to purchase the original Watertower sculpture after seeing it during a business trip to the Dumbo neighborhood in Brooklyn in 2013. The resulting commission for their corporate headquarters in Pleasant Prairie Wisconsin is the centerpiece of their esteemed employee walking trail and is annually featured in their Holiday card to clients.

Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin
ULINE Corporate headquarters
\$150,000



Hi5 Taxicab House 2022

welded steel, acrylic and found signage, paint, hardware, led lights.

10 x 8 x 8 feet

Originally constructed for a South Street Seaport exhibition celebrating the 10-year anniversary of Dumbo's original Watertower sculpture, this house-shaped sculpture is titled for the familiar way in which one hails a taxi in NYC - a symbolic wave across the East River to the Watertower 1. Signage was incorporated from a demolished taxicab depot adjacent to the artists new studio in Gowanus, signaling the omnipresent move of development and gentrification across Brooklyn.



Watertower 3 (2014)

salvaged acrylic, steel, solar panels,

computer controlled LED

22 x 10 x 10 feet

The artist was invited to submit sculpture proposals for Brooklyn Bridge Park after completing artistic signage for waterfront theater company St Anns Warehouse. This novel use of parkland (the headquarters rooftop) took years to realize due to the many complicated zoning regulations required to place the work on a landmarked building over an aged subway tunnel in the view corridor of (first ever) historical district Brooklyn Heights. The location, adjacent to Brooklyn's main transportation corridor BQE, ensures that tens of thousands of commuters experience the work daily.

Watertower 3: R. V. INGERSOLL

334 Furman Street, Brooklyn Bridge Park

Two Trees development

\$150,000



Windmill (2017)

welded steel, salvaged acrylic, paint, hardware

40 x 10 x 10 feet

At over 40 feet, this functioning kaleidoscopic Windmill is the centerpiece and popular meeting place of the Clearfork Shops and Restaurants development in Texas. During the day, sunlight projects a spinning miasma of color onto the sidewalk below, while at night, the blade rotation powers the nighttime accent lighting.

Clearfork, Fort Worth

Simon Cassco Development

\$250,000



Watertower 6 (2017)

found acrylic, laser cut steel, structural steel, paint, hardware, lights
21 x 19 x 19 feet + 40-foot pedestal

This water tower sculpture is situated on a 100-year-old industrial building. Its large size and vibrant colors are an inspiration to the people of Milwaukee and meant to signal the rejuvenation of this historically rough area.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Coakley Brothers

\$225,000



Camouflage House 2019

acrylic, steel

8 x 7 x 7 feet

This is well travelled house! Debuting in NYC's new Hudson Yards Development, Camouflage House has made appearances in Colorado, Laguna Beach, and 5 locations in Santa Barbara's public parks and beaches before settling in to a 3-year residency at Descanso Gardens, CA

On Exhibition

Descanso Gardens, California

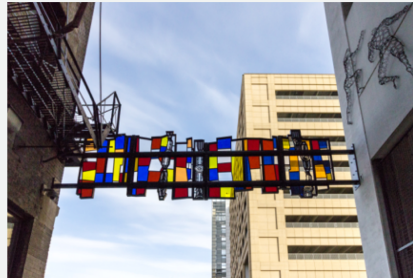
\$75,000



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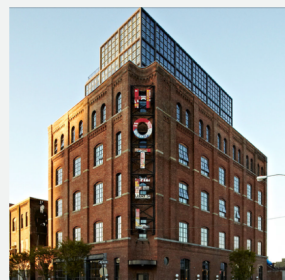
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