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Houston Artist Ed Wilson Completes George R. Brown Interior Commission

Houston, TX (November 8, 2016) – Houston artist Ed Wilson’s Soaring In The Clouds, an artwork commissioned for the interior of the George R. Brown Convention Center is complete. Last spring, Houston Arts Alliance (HAA) awarded Wilson $830,000 to produce a large-scale work of art as part of the convention center’s major renovation. The now completed hanging sculpture will be one of the most visible aspects of the renovation, showing its character in the ever-changing profile based on the variance of light, both natural and staged. Soaring In The Clouds is a 67-foot mobile of bird and cloud forms made of perforated stainless steel, suspended from the ceiling and dramatically lit with colorful, changing LED theater lights. More than 200 individual forms, each molded and shaped by hand using a pneumatic press designed by the artist, hang from cables on the ceiling and move with the airflow in the building. Wilson collaborated with renowned theatrical lighting designer Christina Gianelli. Engineering was provided by Kelly O’Brien.

Ed Wilson has deep roots in our community and hopes that Soaring In The Clouds will speak to all Houstonians. “Public art requires a different type of creative thinking,” said Wilson. “The goal was to create a piece that can activate such a big space, and that appeals to everyone who visits the area—inside or outside the building.”

“When Houston First set out to create a new, long term plan for the George R. Brown, public art was an integral part of that re-envisioning effort,” said David Mincberg, chairman of Houston First. “The goal was to incorporate dramatic pieces of art that would help tell the story of Houston and bring character and life to this building. We believe the incredibly vibrant sculpture that Ed Wilson has created will do just that. Soaring In The Clouds will be visible from the Avenida, Discovery Green and around the entire convention district, serving as a centerpiece and inviting people into this building like never before.”

Houston Arts Alliance (HAA) and Houston First were pleased to offer this size of commission and this level of prominence to one of Houston’s acclaimed artists. “This is truly an iconic piece; we are grateful for his extraordinary gifts,” said Jonathon Glus, president and CEO of HAA. “It embodies the natural environment of Houston and the city’s sense of purpose and progress.” For more information about Houston Arts Alliance, visit houstonartsalliance.com

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About the Artist

Ed Wilson was born in Louisiana and lives and works in Houston, TX. He received a BFA in sculpture from Louisiana State University in 1981, and an MFA from the University of Houston in 1984. He has shown his work in numerous solo exhibitions at venues including Flight Gallery, San Antonio, TX (2014); the Station Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston, TX (2007); Mönckskirche, Salzwedal, Germany (2007); Portikussi, Frankfurt-Offenbach, Germany (2006); Moody Gallery, Houston, TX (2009, 2016); Redbud Gallery. Houston, TX (2003); Artscan Gallery, Houston, TX (2000); McAllen International Museum, McAllen, TX (1999), and Art League Houston, Houston, TX (1995). His work has been featured in many group exhibitions at Lawndale Art Center, Houston TX (2014), Tophane Arts Center, Istanbul, Turkey (2013); Red Arrow Contemporary, Dallas, TX (2013); Beeville Art Museum, Beeville, TX (2009); Arlington Museum of Art, Arlington, TX (2007); Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, TX (1995); Diverse Works, Houston, TX (1991); and Blue Star Contemporary, San Antonio TX (1987).

His recent public art projects include Folded Plane, a public art sculpture on Heights Blvd, as part of True North, Sculpture on the Boulevard by Redbud Projects (2014), and Nethership, a public art sculpture in New Orleans, as part of Sculpture for New Orleans Poydras Street Corridor by The Ogden Museum of Southern Art (2013).


About Houston Arts Alliance

Houston Arts Alliance (HAA) is a nonprofit agency established by the City of Houston to enhance the quality of life and tourism by advancing the arts in the Houston region. AHH invests in and nurtures Houston’s thriving creative community by providing more than 225 grants to nonprofit arts organizations and individual artists each year, commissioning the work of artists for public spaces, managing the city’s art collection, showcasing Houston’s rich folk life traditions, cultivating skill-based volunteers, and empowering arts organizations to become sustainable and reach new audiences through business incubation and other services. For more information on Houston-area arts and culture events, visit HAA’s online resource at artshound.com. For more information on HAA, visit houstonartsalliance.com