

GREG KUCERA GALLERY, INC.

212 Third Avenue South Seattle WA 98104.2608 ■ t: 206.624.0770 f: 206.624.4031 ■ www.gregkucera.com
staff@gregkucera.com ■ Hours: Tuesday through Saturday 10:30 – 5:30 ■ Closed: Sunday and Monday

DEBORAH BUTTERFIELD ■ *30th Anniversary Exhibition* ■ October 3 - November 16, 2013

An opening reception for the artist will be from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., October 3, 2013.



WILLOW, 2013
Unique cast bronze with patina
93 x 98.5 x 36 inches

BIOGRAPHY

Deborah Butterfield was born in San Diego, California in 1949. She received her BA and MFA from UC Davis. Butterfield's work has been featured in over 50 individual exhibitions. In the last several years she has had one-person exhibitions at: The University Art Museum, University of Louisiana, Lafayette; The Hunter Museum of American Art, Chattanooga, TN; The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu; Tucson Museum of Art; Figge Art Museum, Davenport, IA; Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, NV and The Norton Museum of Art, Palm Beach.

Greg Kucera Gallery is pleased to announce its 10th exhibition of new sculpture by Deborah Butterfield as it celebrates its 30th anniversary.

Since 1980, Butterfield has been constructing life-size horses from sticks and plant material from which she creates a casting in bronze at the Walla Walla Foundry in Washington State. Butterfield sculpts the original work by fastening logs, branches, sticks, planks, and boards onto an armature that gives the basic posture of the particular horse. Molds are made for each chunk of wood piece by piece, the burnable elements are covered with heat resistant plaster and then baked in a furnace until the wood completely burns away. Molten bronze is then poured into the recesses left by the wood. When the plaster is chipped away, the wooden piece has been refashioned exactly in bronze—right down to the grain of the wood. Since the wood is destroyed and the plaster is discarded in the casting process, each sculpture is unique and cannot be duplicated. The work is reassembled in bronze and intricately patinated to suggest the original wood used in making the sculpture.



HALF MOON, 2013
Unique cast bronze with patina
87.5 x 113 x 73 inches

Butterfield's work is included in the permanent collections of several major museums, including: The Art Institute of Chicago; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Baltimore Museum of Art; Brooklyn Museum; The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu; National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; San Diego Museum of Art; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Seattle Art Museum; The Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; and The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.

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30th Anniversary Exhibition ■

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I chose Deborah Butterfield's work as my 30th Anniversary Exhibition because working with her has singularly enabled me for some of the greatest opportunities in my life. Her success has allowed me to take chances in many ways with other artists, business decisions, and life choices that I could not have seen for myself when I opened in 1983. It's also true that I am extremely grateful to all the gallery's artists for working with me over these thirty years.

1983 was a banner year for me. I met my mate Larry Yocom, opened my gallery, and helped Larry start his frame shop. Thirty years later, I wake up a happy man every day who still goes to work at the gallery because every day something meaningful happens there.

Galleries who represent artists, and show their art in exhibitions, continue an honorable, if difficult, tradition. In these last few hard years, some gallerists chose to cut back, and others to simply cease business. Those gone will be missed because every gallery and artist who attempts greatness is a valuable part of our art world.

My personal path was always to work hard and long alongside the several excellent staff people I have had over the years. Some of my employees have even inspired me further by leaving to open their own businesses even in these difficult times.

With little experience behind me at the age of twenty-seven, I started my business with the hope of showing artists whose work I cared about. At fifty-seven, I continue to select artists who matter to me and I believe they will matter to others over time.

Some are makers of sublime beauty because, often, that is enough. Others make emotionally resonant works of art. Still others create to engage their audience intellectually. It's a wide range of endeavors and they are all interesting to me, even now.

I have learned, just as assuredly as my own tastes change, the contemporary art world around me changes. In fact, it's a constantly moving target. That adventure in learning is a great pleasure though because, as long as I am working for my artists, my world is always about learning and changing. That work with others, in turn, supports my own endeavors.

The struggle of life, I have been taught, is a well-fought battle. That fight to survive extends metaphorically to my business. Doing my best, in my view, is fulfilling an obligation to my artists and creating my own satisfaction.

As I wrote on the date of my first anniversary in 1984, "May this business continue with the spirit of joy in which it began."
--- Greg Kucera



MUGO, 2013
Unique cast bronze with patina
44 x 53 x 18 inches

Upcoming exhibition:

DARREN WATERSTON
November 21 - December 21, 2013



MILES CLEVELAND GOODWIN
November 21 - December 21, 2013

