

Charles Parson, 2013

Charles Parson's multi-faceted work includes drawings, prints, paintings, sculptures, installations, stage designs and performance art. His work has been viewed in galleries, art centers and museums throughout the United States. He has 65 one-person exhibitions to his credit, as well as numerous regional and national showings in group shows. Additionally, he has produced many alternative public art events and large-scale temporary installations.



Parson studied traditional landscape painting at the A.E. Backus Studio in Florida from 1962 - 1966. This was during the same time and place as the emergence of the group of artists known as The Florida Highwaymen. After studying from 1966 - 1970 he received a BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute, majoring in Painting and Drawing with a minor in Printmaking. He received a Master of Fine Arts degree from Cranbrook Academy of Art with a major in Painting and a minor in Materials Technology in 1972. Parson performed supplemental studies at Western States Film Institute and the Munt-Brooks Dance Studio, Denver.

Parson's work has been extensively reviewed, and has been the subject of many feature articles. He has appeared numerous times on television and radio, discussing both his art and the current state of the arts. Reviews, features, and articles on Parson have appeared in many publications, such as *The Chicago New Art Examiner*, *Artspace*, *Art Express*, *American Artist*, *Plano-Star Courier*, *Dallas Morning News*, *The Denver Post*, *Rocky Mountain News*, *Westword*, *Straight Creek Arts Journal*, *Artweek*, *Upper Larimer Arts and Times*, *Detroit Free Press*, *Miami Herald*, *Pontiac Press*, *Icon Arts Journal*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Orlando Sentinel*, *Sculptural Pursuit Magazine* and *The New York New Times*, and the Literary/Arts magazine *Porcupine*, to name a few.

Among the awards Parson has received are: the Denver Art Museum's Alliance for Contemporary Art 1999 AFKEY Award. In the mid-90's he received the *Innovation in the Arts Award* from the Colorado Federation of the Arts, a *Co-Visions Recognition Award* from the Colorado Council on the Arts and Humanities, and was one of the 1995 recipients of the *Museum Art Educators of the Year* award from the Colorado Art Education Association. Parson has also been acknowledged by receiving numerous teaching awards in the past decade. Beginning in the late 70s through the present he has received several *Best of Westword Awards* from the Denver based Arts and Entertainment publication, *Westword* and was named *Top Sculptor* in the state of Colorado by *Rocky Mountain News*, *Top of the Rockies*.

Parson has lectured extensively at schools, colleges, art centers and museums as well as presented a wide range of workshops. He has taught and served as Chair at several colleges throughout his career. He currently teaches a broad range of foundations at a local college in the greater metropolitan Denver area. He has enjoyed a large range of diverse art-related employment activities, including being part of the staff of the Exhibit Design team at Denver's Museum of Nature and Science, including working as a contract graphic muralist and illustrator for them since 1986.

Representative large-scale works have been seen in such places as the two-and-a-half story tall sculpture, *Steeple* at Northshore Sculpture Park, in the Chicago suburb of Skokie; *Subtended Connection, II*, originally seen in Brooklyn, now on display at Stetson University, DeLand, Florida; the recent display of the 65' long sculpture *Molto Allargando* at the University of Wyoming Museum, now installed at the artist's art retreat, Sisu, in Southern Colorado, as well as *Frame for a Caret*, previously on display at the Purdue University campus and *Monument to a Wyoming Rancher*, originally displayed in Chicago and then Peoria. Site-specific works are regularly being designed and installed on the grounds of Sisu as the retreat enters its 10th year. More of Parson's

exterior works can be seen on display in front of the Kirkland Museum, Denver as part of their recent acquisitions.

The artist will be permanently installing the monumental sculpture *Earth Gate* in late March 2013 in Gold Gulch Park, Arvada, Colorado as part of their public arts direct purchase program. He has also had the monumental sculpture, *Steeple* added to the permanent collection of the Northshore Sculpture Park in North Chicago as well as a sculptural work from his *Gate Series* added to the permanent collection of the Nicolaysen Art Museum, Casper, Wyoming.

Parson released a reprint of his 2002 book, *The Sanctuary of the Moment* in 2006. His next book *Intersections* is slated for release in late 2013. He is preparing for his next major show to be held in 2014 at The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center.

His website can be viewed at www.charlesparson.com

Parson is represented by

z | art dept.

1136 North Speer Blvd.

Denver, CO 80204

303.298.8432

zartdepartment@yahoo.com

