

Charles Parson, 2014

Charles Parson's multi-faceted work includes drawings, prints, wall constructions, 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 well-known Kansas City Art Institute, majoring in Painting and Drawing with a minor in Printmaking. He received a Master of Fine Arts degree from the prestigious 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 classes 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.

Recent exhibition highlights of the 2013 year include purchase and installation of three-story tall Earthgate, one of two of his large exterior sculptures for Arvada, Colorado's Gold Strike Park. Parson also installed the 72' long Molto Allagrande on his family's art retreat, Sisu, recently on display at the University of Wyoming's Art Museum. In early 2013 he had a one-person exhibit, Badito Cone, at the Donna Moravec Gallery on the campus of the Aurora Community College. He participated in a small group show, *Influences* last summer, premiering the new Denver-based Mai Wyn Gallery (an hour-long web-cast interview with the gallery owner and this artist can be heard on the Untitled Art Show program, <http://moaonline.org/untitled-arts-show/>). Summer of 2013 Parson also was in a two-person exhibit until October, 2013 with legendary Colorado artist and Libre founder, Dean Fleming at The Museum of Friends in Southern Colorado which includes artist's talks for the public. Parson was represented in a photo exhibition in conjunction with the premiere of a new book this September, at the Denver Public Library's history wing, presenting 38 Colorado Creatives, developed and authored by photo-essayist Glen Cuerden. Parson and his family continue work on their 35 acre remote art retreat, Sisu in which he has recently installed another 6 sculptures, bringing the current total to 50 works permanently installed. The Parson family members also are currently developing the Sisu Annex, a small store-front 24 hour-a-day viewing space of rotating artworks by the various family members, located in Southern Colorado.



In late October, 2014 the artist will be presenting a large-scale exhibition of a one person show of his work, (as well, his son, Collin Parson's One Person Exhibit of his new works) on the top floor of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. They will both be installing large-scale site-specific works as well as supplemental smaller sculptures and drawings. This work, from Charles's current series *Still* and *Centered Point* will also be expanded upon in a September 2014 one-person exhibit at the Denver-based "Z-Modern Gallery". In addition both Collin and Charles will be in a two-person exhibit at the Mai Wyn Gallery, Denver in early November, further amplifying their current series. Parson also has installed two exterior sculptures summer 2014 in the Arvada Center for Arts and Humanities new *Sculpture in the Field* group exhibition, opening in late June. In summer of 2015 he is scheduled to present his artwork in a one-person exhibit at the Denver International Airport gallery and additional work in the terminal as part of the exhibit. Work on his second book, *Intersections* continues as well as the audio recording of it for digital reproduction is underway with expected release also in 2014. This follows the second printing of his original book, *The Sanctuary of the Moment*

His website can be viewed at www.charlesparson.com

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