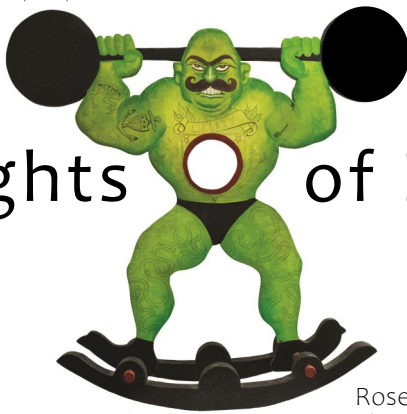


WHIMSY & Flights of Fancy



Rosemary and George Fisher,
The Tattooed Strongman,
Arkansas Arts Center Collection,
(full credit on page 3).

The Arts & Science Center for Southeast Arkansas February 6–April 25, 2020

The Arkansas Arts Center's collection of *Toys Designed by Artists* sparked this exhibition for, what better to surround these sculptural toys than fanciful paintings? One curator's idea of whimsy is another's scorn but, we need something fanciful at the moment. Eric Freeman's imaginative animals, Katherine Strause's exuberant figures, and Sherry Williamson's flying objects—from pink pigs to dandelion puffs—join the Arkansas Art Center's dragons, racing rats, and a cuckoo in a burst of frivolity.

For those following the Arts & Science Center's art exhibitions these last few years, the topics have been serious as we explore the very real challenges of social injustice, economic disparity, and discrimination. *Whimsy & Flights of Fancy* originated as a spot of fun and today, in the Winter of 2020, let us gather around art and take a moment for silliness, laughter, and gratitude.

Lenore Shoults, Ph.D.
Curator

Eric Freeman's fantastic creatures illuminate the exhibition with color and imagination.

(Right) *The Rare Air*, 2018, oil on linen, 108" x 72"

All OK, 2017, oil on canvas, 65" x 80"

Guarded by Lions, 2017, oil on canvas, 65" x 80"



Katherine Strause's energetic figures jump and tumble across the canvas in a joyful frenzy.



(Left) *1972 Jump Rope*, 2018, oil on canvas 36" x 24"

Suburb, 2018, oil on canvas, 24" x 18"

Sidewalk Jump Rope, 2018, oil on canvas, 24" x 18"

Jump Rope with Red and Green Sweaters, 2018, oil on canvas, 36" x 24"

Pink Suit, 2018, oil on canvas, 16" x 20"

Yellow Dress, 2018, oil on canvas, 16" x 20"

Sherry Williamson employs all things flying—from pink pigs to rockets—bringing us whimsical flight and fanciful fun. All, 2019, acrylic on canvas.

Right, (detail) *Rocket*, 24”x12”

Height of Optimism, 24”x30”

Flying Lessons, 20”x20”

Butterfly, 10”x8”

Prepared for Take Off, 36”x48”

Balloons I, 12”x12”

Balloons II, 10”x10”

Unmade Wish, 12”x12”



The Arkansas Arts Center's Toys Designed by Artists

All, Arkansas Arts Center Foundation Collection, *Toys Designed by Artists* (TBA), American unless noted. All measurements in inches.

(Cover) Rosemary and George Fisher, American (Burnham-on-Sea, England, 1927-1983, Little Rock, Arkansas; Searcy, Arkansas, 1923-2003, Little Rock, Arkansas), *The Tattooed Strongman*, 1975, painted wood, 36.5x39x5, Purchase Award: 3rd TBA. 1975.019.004

Ronnie A. Nichols, (Little Rock, Arkansas, 1951-), *Blue Racer*, 1986-'87, mixed media, 5.25x8.5x11, 15th TBA. 1987.041.004.

Fred Best, (Macon, Georgia, 1943-), *Aeroplane*, 2000, metal, wood, paint, 6x15x14, Purchased with a gift from Lucy Lockett Cabe, 28th TBA. 2001.002.001

David Bettinger, (Waco, Texas, 1949-), *Panda Band*, 1979, wood, acrylic paint, 10.5x6x5.5, 7th TBA. 1979.059.001

Frank R. Cheatham, (Beeville, Texas, 1936-), *Jack-a-Roo Choo Choo*, 1986-'87, hardwood, string, 9.25x24.5x8, 15th TBA. 1987.041.001

Carole Alden Doubek, American (Orleans, France, 1960-), *Basiliscus Plumifrons*, 1993, painted canvas, 16x29x118, 21st TBA. 1994.013.002

Cheryl Frances, (Berwyn, Illinois, 1958-), *Three Bears Playhouse*, 1999, recycled silver plate flatware, found objects, 9.25x10.25x8, 28th TBA. 2001.002.003

John S. Morgan, (Jackson, Mississippi, 1956-), *The Last Cuckoo*, 1998, maple, walnut, brass brads, acrylic paint, 4x5x16, 26th TBA. 1998.055.004

Robly Glover, (Carmi, Illinois, 1956-), *V2 Rat*, 1993, brass, paint, 4x7x2, Purchased with a gift from Lucy Lockett Cabe, 21st TBA. 1994.013.003

Rick Heller, (Pettigrew, Arkansas), *Giraffe on Wheels*, 1987-'88, wood, acrylic paint, 23x5x7, 16th TBA. 1988.052

Miles Carpenter, (Pennsylvania, 1889-1985), *Frog*, 1995, wood, acrylic paint, 5x12x6, Gift of the artist. 1983.003.001

Dee J. Lafon, (Ogden, Utah, 1929-), *Rocking Woman*, 1986-'87, laminated pine, brass brads, string, bells, 12x17x6, 15th TBA. 1987.041.002

Robert Maker, (Guthrie, Oklahoma, 1944-1993), *The Politician*, 1989, steel, 14x7x10, 17th TBA. 1989.058.003

Andre Monceret, (Lafayette, Louisiana, 1973-), *The Armored Elephant*, 1993, metal, wood, rubber, 7x11x4, Purchased with a gift from Lucy Lockett Cabe, 21st TBA. 1994.013.004

Sean O'Meallie, (Louisiana, 1955-), *Shark Fin Pull Toy*, 2000, wood, paint, 8x10x7, Purchased with a gift from Lucy Lockett Cabe, 27th TBA. 2000.011.003

Sheryl Haler Owens, (Dallas, Texas, 1954-), *Where the Wild Things Live*, 1987, mixed media, 17x8x10, 16th TBA. 1988.055

Ann Wood and Dean Lucker (1961-) (1962-), *Miss Emma and the Butterfly*, 1996, paint, paper, metal, cloth, resin, 9x4x10, Purchased with a gift from Lucy Lockett Cabe, 24th TBA. 1997.001.006

Ann Wood and Dean Lucker (1961-) (1962-), *Butterfly and Flower*, 1999, carved wood, tempera paint, 8x11x4, Purchased with a gift from Lucy Lockett Cabe, 27th TBA. 2000.011.006

Dan Torpey (Louisville, Kentucky, 1954-), *The Flying Man*, 1999, wood, feathers, 16x8x4, Purchased with a gift from Lucy Lockett Cabe, 28th TBA. 2001.002.008

Special thanks to
Richard and Margaret Dearnley.

