



**G r a h a m L a n e**

*Kansas City, KS*

**ARTIST STATEMENT**

As a child I was always taking things apart that had warning labels like, “Do Not Open!” and “Risk of Electric Shock!” I saw those warnings as invitations that said, “Open me now, so you can see how I work!” I had to find out what was inside and I still find myself taking things apart (sometimes things I shouldn’t). My need to understand machines and gadgets developed into making kinetic sculpture.

As an artist I am still interested in how things work, but now I am more interested in how people work, how the mind works. I use traditional figurative elements and industrial machines to examine the relationships between man and technology, as well as man’s desire to have more and more control over his environment. In our attempts to control our surroundings we often lose sight of our own, imperfect, human nature and we habitually see ourselves and our actions in desensitized, scientific terms. I enjoy showing people the embarrassing, awkward parts of humanity, the parts that we pretend to have outgrown. I want to make people see the things that they try to hide from themselves and I want them to be amused by it.

My aesthetic is driven by early industrial machines that were designed with artistic beauty in mind. An extensive display of steam engines at the Deutsches Museum, in Munich, Germany has significantly influenced my work due to the craftsmanship involved in their construction. We frequently hide the technologically superior machines that we build within flat metal boxes. Likewise, we hide our own internal workings behind the absurd concepts of who we are “supposed” to be.

Most of my sculptures are examinations of human processes, and usually represent a specific emotion. The sculptures themselves are mechanical and become a physical manifestation of that emotion. I might use jerky, repetitive motions to convey obsessive frustration, or to communicate persistence and patience I might use calm, smooth movement. Finding a way for my kinetic sculptures to mimic human qualities has become a way for me to understand people.

I enjoy working with circuitry and mechanics, as well as working with funny subject matter. I get a great deal of satisfaction from a career in sculpture that grew from an earlier desire to mess with things that have labels like “Do Not Open.”

**Blue Gallery**

118 Southwest Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64108

816.527.0823 voice 816.527.0826 fax BlueGalleryOnline.com website

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## EDUCATION

- 1996 Master of Fine Arts: University of California at Davis. Focus in Sculpture.
- 1995 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME. Focus in sculpture and fresco.
- 1994 Bachelor of Fine Arts: Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO. Major in Sculpture.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2004-05 Visiting Instructor, University of Kansas, Lawrence. (Fall 2004 and spring 2005.) Sculpture I and II and appointment courses with advanced students. Service responsibility to maintain sculpture facility and tool room.
  - 2004 Lecturer, University of Kansas Lawrence (Spring 2004) Sculpture I, Covering steel fabrication, aluminum casting, plaster molds, wood working, and figure study.
  - 1998-05 Adjunct Assistant Professor, Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, KS. Sculpture I and II (Two stacked sections per semester). Service responsibilities: Participation in faculty meetings, complete maintenance of sculpture facilities and supervision of a lab assistant.
- During Spring 2001, I held a temporary full time position as an Assistant Professor. Additional responsibilities included managing the budget for the sculpture, silver/metals, and ceramics area of JCCC art department, coordinating the needs of the 3-D adjunct faculty and the administration, and supervising a lab assistant.
- o Advanced Foundry course teaching the design, construction and use of an iron-casting Cupola.
  - o Three sections of Sculpture 1 and 2, stacked. Covering steel fabrication, bronze casting, stone carving, mold making, plaster work, figurative sculpture, and installation.
- 1999-05 Instructor, continuing education courses, Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, KS. Two to four classes per semester.
    - o Bronze Casting: Lost-wax, ceramic shell process.
    - o Stone Carving: Limestone, marble, and alabaster carving with hand and power tools.
    - o Sculptural Welding: Using oxy-acetylene, arc, MIG, TIG, Plasma cutting, and forging.
    - o Junk Yard Wars College Style: Just like the TV show, but the junkyard was smaller.
  - 1999-04 Instructor, Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO.
    - Art-Lab: pre-college, high school residency program.
    - Sculptural Welding: oxy-acetylene, arc, MIG and forging.
  - 1994-96 Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of California at Davis. Five quarters in drawing, painting, and sculpture courses.
  - 1995 Associate Instructor, University of California at Davis. Graduate Student instructor of record for two Drawing I classes.

## RELATED ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

- 2001-05 Finance Coordinator, Art Department, Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, KS. Ongoing responsibilities for coordinating the finances and purchases of 4 to 6 adjunct faculty in the Sculpture/Metals area.
- 2000 Curriculum Development: Participant in Master Teacher's Workshop, through Johnson County Community College.
- 2000 Curriculum Development: Assist in the rewriting of the course outlines to meet with Kansas Board of Education Standards for Ceramics, Sculpture, and Metals area of Johnson County Community College.
- 1995-96 Shop Supervisor, Sculpture Studio, University of California, Davis. Supervised the shop after hours and on weekends to ensure safety and assist students. Cleaned and maintained tools and equipment.
- 1995 Shop Supervisor, Sculpture Studio, Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture.
- 1991-94 Campus Wood shop Technician, Central Woodshop, Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO.  
Supervised the shop after hours and on weekends to ensure safety and assist students. Cleaned and maintained tools and equipment.

## RELATED TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE

- 1996-05 Studio Assistant to Marcus and Sheryl Pierson, well known painters and sculptors, Kansas City, MO. Responsibilities include stretching canvas, building sculptures, making molds, and building studio equipment.
- 1997-98 Pattern and mold maker, Architectural Details International, Kansas City, KS. Building wood patterns and large rubber molds for plaster and concrete castings.
- 1996-97 Woodworker, Polivka Fine Woodworking, Kansas City, MO. Building custom furniture and cabinets using traditional and contemporary wood working processes.
- 1993 Woodworker, Lowery and Sons Cabinet Makers, Swartz, LA.

## AWARDS / HONORS

- 2003 Nominated for the Lieberman Award for Excellence in Teaching, Johnson County Community College, Overland Park KS.
- 2000 Nominated for the Lieberman Award for Excellence in Teaching, Johnson County Community College, Overland Park KS.
- 1998 Received a studio visit from Rafeal Rubenstein, senior editor for Art In America, in conjunction with the JCCC art show "Perspective Kansas City"
- 1995 Tuition and Residency Student Grant to attend The Skowhegan Art School summer program.

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## EXHIBITION RECORD

- 2005 "Group Show" Strecker-Nelson Gallery, Manhattan, KS 66502 Manhattan KS.  
2004 "Group Show" Strecker-Nelson Gallery, Manhattan, KS 66502 Manhattan KS.  
2004 Faculty Exhibition, Johnson County Community College Library Gallery, Overland Park KS.  
2003 "Teaching the Object" Group exhibition at The Arts Incubator, Kansas City, MO.  
2003 "You Are Here" at The Bank, for the Urban Culture Project in Kansas City, MO.  
2002 "Shine" JCCC Gallery of Art: JCCC Foundation fundraising exhibition in Overland Park, KS.  
2001 Review Magazine Fundraiser at the Hobbs Building in Kansas City, MO.  
2001 Flat File exhibition, H&R Block Art Space Kansas City, MO.  
2001 Group exhibition at The Old Post Office Gallery in Kansas City, MO.  
2000 Group exhibition at The Old Post Office Gallery in Kansas City, MO.  
2000 Faculty Exhibition, Johnson County Community College Library Gallery, Overland Park KS.  
1999 Series of three theme based exhibitions at The Old Post Office Gallery in Kansas City, MO.  
1999 "Kinetic Show" The Dirt Gallery, Kansas City, MO.  
1998 Solo Window Installation at The Dirt Gallery, Kansas City, MO.  
1997 "The Chair Building Presents" Kansas City, MO.  
1997 "The Barbie Show" Gallery V, Kansas City, MO.  
1997 "Truth and Sickbed" 1331 Union Gallery, Kansas City, MO.  
1997 "The Casino Show" The Dirt Gallery, Kansas City, MO.  
1997 "Pretty Big Show" The Dirt Gallery, Kansas City, MO.  
1996 "Exit" M.F.A. graduate thesis exhibition, U.C. Davis Campus, Davis, CA.  
1996 "Intermission" U.C. Davis Memorial Union Gallery, Davis, CA.  
1995 "Entry" The Pence Gallery, Davis, CA.  
1995 "Thrift Store Project" in Sacramento, CA.  
1994 Solo Installation at "Fresh Widow" an alternative space in Kansas City, MO.  
1993 "Four Faiths" Left Bank Gallery, Kansas City, MO.  
1993 "La Futura" Left Bank Gallery, Kansas City, MO.  
1992 Invitational student exhibition for Kansas City Art Institute. Wichita Center for the Arts, Wichita, KS.  
1992 Masur Museum 19th Annual Juried Competition, Monroe, LA.

## PUBLIC COMMISSION

- 2000 "Just Imagine" A fourteen foot tall sculpture consisting of a ten-foot diameter stainless steel sphere, and four life sized fiberglass figures. I modeled the figures in clay and cast them in fiberglass for The New Theatre Restaurant in Overland Park, KS.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Thorson, Alice "Spotlight: Art party on the streets of downtown" *Kansas City Star* 18 Apr. 2003 Sec. Preview, p. 29  
Thorson, Alice "Art of the city. The works of 15 artists discover 'You Are Here'" *Kansas City Star* 23 May 2003 Sec. Preview, p. 44  
Hunter, Anne Marie "Spherical Splendor" *Kansas City Star* 10 Nov. 2000 Sec. B, p. 1  
Thorson, Alice "Kinetic art moves one to thought" *Kansas City Star* 5 Feb. 1999 Sec. Preview, p. 11  
Thorson, Alice "Artists provide textural contrasts at Zone" *Kansas City Star* 7 Feb. 1997 Sec. Preview, p. 20  
Thorson, Alice "Ah, for the days when they just twisted off her head. Grown boys creatively defile Barbie dolls in the name of art" *Kansas City Star* 14 June 1997 Sec. E, p. 1  
Thorson, Alice "Plethora of exhibits offers something for everyone" *Kansas City Star* 7 Jan. 1994 Sec. G, p. 4  
Thorson, Alice "An alternative venue The owner of Gallery V celebrates 10 years of young, eclectic art" *Kansas City Star* 27 June. 1994 Sec. D, p. 1  
Thorson, Alice "Works by Dale Eldred's students show the diversity of his teaching" *Kansas City Star* 5 Nov. 1993 Sec. H, p. 28  
Thorson, Alice "Artists took center stage in KC art world of 1993" *Kansas City Star* 26 Dec. 1993 Sec K, p. 3

## GALLERY AFFILIATION

Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO  
Strecker-Nelson Gallery, Manhattan, KS.

## OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES

- 2003 Travel to Denmark.  
2002 Travel to Holland.  
2001 Travel to Spain, Italy, France, Germany, and Holland.  
2000 Served on Advisory Committee for the Kansas State School for the Blind as they built an Art studio for the visually impaired and people with other physical challenges.  
1999 Served on the Kansas City Artists' Coalition selection committee for the 1999 exhibition year.

# G r a h a m L a n e

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## *SKILLS*

### Computer

Hardware: I build my own computers from components, and have published reviews of hardware on the Internet using test equipment that I built.

Software: Fluent in Microsoft Windows 98, 2000, XP, Mac OS 9 and OS X. Familiar with networking, and maintenance of these Operating Systems

Applications: Microsoft: Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

Adobe: Premier, Photoshop, Illustrator, and Acrobat.

Macromedia: Dreamweaver, Fireworks, Freehand, Flash, and Homesite.

Several CD and DVD authoring programs and utilities.

## *Tools/Equipment/Processes*

Bronze Casting: I designed and constructed the ceramic shell investment mixer, burn out kilns, and burners used at JCCC. I teach both ceramic shell and plaster investment lost wax techniques.

Mold/Pattern Making: Proficient in rubber, plastic, and fiberglass casting, mold construction and pattern building.

Welding: Proficient in Arc, TIG, MIG, plasma, and Oxy-Fuel welding/cutting processes.

Carving: I teach stone carving using limestone, alabaster, soapstone, granite, wood and plaster.

Woodworking: I am proficient with all wood working machines and hand tools.

Ceramics: I have sufficient knowledge of ceramics to facilitate a sculpture student wanting to work in clay.

## *PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS*

College Art Association

International Sculpture Center

