

Margaret Smithers-Crump

born: Toronto, Canada



ARTIST'S STATEMENT

My work focuses on the vulnerability and interconnectedness of the Earth's diverse life forms and ecosystems. It explores natural conditions of development such as birth, maturation, procreation and death and unnatural conditions caused by human impact such as global warming, pollution and loss of habitat. Growing up on a tiny island in Canada, I witnessed the transformation of our lake's crystalline waters changing with obvious signs of pollution.

Later on while living in the South Pacific, I saw clear evidence of invasive species and witnessed the awesome beauty of life in the coral reefs that are now affected by coral bleaching. Profoundly saddened, I developed a passionate regard for the planet and its life forms. As a result, I wanted to find an art material that could conceptually evoke fragility and breakage. I wanted something that looked like glass but offered many creative possibilities.

In the late 90's I began working with recycled plexiglas and polycarbonate and found that these substances perform with amazing versatility. For example, I am able to cut this material into hundreds of units that are shaped with heat and are chemically bonded together to create large two and three dimensional works for the wall, floor and ceiling. Many of the suspended forms rotate with the slightest air currents due their light weight.

The acrylic can receive a variety of media that is applied to the front and back of the forms. The painted surfaces are translucent and provide possibilities for greater depth and luminosity. While Plexiglas offers diverse applications for my practice, it also offers compelling conceptual strengths that underscore my core concerns regarding the fragile balance of life on our planet. The glass-like appearance implies the possibility of breakage and shattering. It is a powerful metaphor for the tenuous existence of all life.

EDUCATION

1973 Bachelors of Fine Arts in painting – Miami University – Oxford, Ohio

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 *Breaking Point* – Rudolph Blume Fine Art / ArtScan Gallery – Houston, TX
- 2018 *Inherit the Earth* – The Grace Museum – Abilene, TX
- 2017 *Speechless* – CAMIBAart Gallery – Austin, TX
In Silence – Kingwood Gallery, Lone Star College – Kingwood, TX
In Silence – Beeville Art Museum – Beeville, TX
- 2016 *Vital* – Manifest Gallery – Cincinnati, OH
Vital – Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts – Spring, TX
Full Circle – The Gallery at Penn College, Penn State – Williamsport, PA
Vital Signs – Galveston Arts Center – Galveston, TX
Against All Odds – Maria V. Howard Fine Arts Center, Imperial Centre for Arts and Science – Rocky Mount, NC
- 2015 *In Motion* – College of the Mainland – Texas City, TX
Life Lines – Bosque Gallery at Lone Star College CyFair – Cypress Fairbanks, TX
- 2014 *Pulse* – Lawndale Art Center – Houston, TX
- 2011 *Open Endings* – Buchanan Gallery – Galveston, TX
- 2009 *A Clear Choice* – Buchanan Gallery – Galveston, TX
University of Houston – Clear Lake, TX
- 2006 Buchanan Gallery – Galveston, TX
- 2004 Galveston Art Center – Galveston, TX
- 2001 Art Center at Clear Lake – Clear Lake, TX
- 1999 Yukiko Lunday Gallery – Houston, TX
- 1997 Yukiko Lunday Gallery – Houston, TX
- 1995 Dakota Gallery – Houston, TX
North Harris College Gallery – Houston, TX
C. G. Jung Educational Center – Houston, TX
- 1993 Visual & Performing Arts Gallery, UT Health Science Center – Houston, TX
- 1992 Martin Museum of Art, Baylor University – Waco, TX
- 1991 South Texas College of Law – Houston, TX
- 1988 Goethe Institute Gallery – Houston, TX

- 1986 University of Houston – Clear Lake, TX
- 1985 University of Houston, O’Kane Gallery – Houston, TX

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 *Houston Sculpture Month* – The Silos – Houston, TX – curated group exhibit
- 2017 *Is Art Work?* – Spartanburg Museum of Art – Spartanburg, SC
- 2016 *Night & Day* – CAMIBAart, at Oz Interiors – Houston, TX – a two person exhibit
Material Transformations – Valdosta State University – Valdosta, GA
- 2015 *Truly: Imagined* – CAMIBAart Gallery – Austin, TX
Gallery Artist Exhibit – CAMIBAart – Austin, TX
Inherent Palette – Devin Borden Gallery – Houston, TX
Cycles of Life – CAMIBAart – Austin, TX – a two person exhibit
The Nature of Things – The Lincoln Center – Fort Collins, CO
- 2014 *Assistance League of Houston Celebrates Texas Art* – Williams Tower Gallery – Houston, TX
- 2013 *Winter Garden* – Devin Borden Gallery – Houston, TX
- 2010 *Here and Now* – Pearl Fincher Museum of Art, Runge/Howard Collection – The Woodlands, TX
- 2009 *Holiday Exhibition* – Buchanan Gallery – Galveston, TX
20th Anniversary Exhibition – Buchanan Gallery – Houston, TX
- 2008 *Summer Group Exhibit* – Buchanan Gallery – Galveston, TX
- 2006 *Summer Group Exhibit* – Buchanan Gallery – Galveston, TX
- 2003 Matthew Travis Gallery – Houston, TX – a two person exhibit
- 2002 *Big Show* – Lawndale Art Center – Houston, TX
- 2000 *2000 Critic’s Choice* – Dallas Visual Arts Center – Dallas, TX
- 1999 *Surfaces* – Yukiko Lunday Gallery – Houston, TX
- 1998 *Oil Patch Dreams* – Museum of Southeast Texas, Beaumont, TX – touring exhibit
also: El Paso Museum, Midland Art Center, Wichita Falls Art Center
- 1997 McNair Gallery – Telluride, CO
Yukiko Lunday Gallery – Houston, TX
Women on Women – New Gallery – Houston, TX

- 1996 *Texas Art '96* – Cullen Center – Houston, TX
- 1995 *Body Works* – New Gallery – Houston, TX
Two Person Exhibition – Dakota Gallery – Houston, TX
- 1994 *Small Works from Houston to Russia* – Moscow and St. Petersburg
Houston Area open Competition – Art League of Houston – Houston, TX
- 1993 Brazos Valley Art Gallery – College Station, TX
- 1992 *Houston Area Exhibition* – Blaffer Gallery, University of Houston – Houston, TX
 Abilene Art Center – Abilene, TX – *2nd Place Award*
- 1991 G.V.G. Gallery – Houston, TX – a two person exhibit
- 1989 Edith Baker Gallery – Dallas, TX
- 1988 *Internal Order* – Transco Tower – Houston, TX
 Judy Youens Gallery – Houston, TX – a two person exhibit
 Edith Baker Gallery – Dallas, TX
- 1987 Alternate Gallery – Dallas, TX – a two person exhibit
Women Artists of Three States – Dallas City Hall – Dallas, TX – *Merit Award*
Competition '87 – Art League of Houston – Houston, TX – *Merit Award*
Visual Articulations – A&M University Gallery – College Station, TX
- 1986 *Alumni Juried Exhibition* – Art Museum of Miami University – Oxford, OH
Artist Directors – Two Houston Center – Houston, TX
Works on Paper – University of Texas Tyler – Tyler, TX
 Abilene Art Center – Abilene, TX – A Juried Exhibition – *2nd Place Award*
- 1985 *Competition '85* – Two Houston Center – Houston, TX – Assistance League
 Square One Gallery – Houston, TX
 Southern California Gallery for Contemporary Art – Los Angeles, CA
- 1984 *State Citation Exhibition* – Design Center – Austin, TX
Austin Citation Exhibition – Design Center – Austin, TX – *Merit Award*
Drawing Conclusions – Drawing Room Gallery – Houston, TX
- 1983 O’Kane Gallery, University of Houston – Houston, TX – two person exhibit
Tribute to Houston Artists – Midtown Art Center – Houston, TX
East End Show – Lawndale Art Center – Houston, TX
 University of St. Thomas – Houston, TX
- 1982 *Works on Paper* – Art league of Houston – Houston, TX – *2nd Place Award*
- 1980 *Dimension Houston* – Texas Commerce Tower, Art League of Texas – Houston, TX

SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, and GRANTS

- 1992 *2nd Place Award* - Abilene Art Center – Abilene, TX
- 1987 *Merit Award - Women Artists of Three States* – Dallas City Hall – Dallas, TX
Merit Award - Competition '87 – Art League of Houston – Houston, TX
- 1986 *2nd Place Award* - Abilene Art Center – Abilene, TX – A Juried Exhibition
- 1984 *Merit Award - Austin Citation Exhibition* – Design Center – Austin, TX
- 1982 *2nd Place Award - Works on Paper* – Art league of Houston – Houston, TX

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2016 Magazine; *Margaret Smithers-Crump*. Venision Magazine, Winter Issue
Newspaper; Holt, Vanessa. *Houston Artist Uses Recycled Materials*. Community Impact Newspaper. Houston, TX
Newspaper; Poling, Dean. *Material Transformations*. Valdosta Daily Times. GA
Magazine; *Imperial Centre in Rocky Mount N.C.* Carolina Arts, March issue. features works by Margaret Smithers-Crump
- 2015 Newspaper; Glentzer, Molly. *Fresh Takes*. Houston Chronicle. Featuring Pulse at Lawndale Art Center
- 2014 Periodical; *A Juried Selection of International Visual Artists*. Studio Visit Vol. 27. The Open Studio Press. pp 192 - 193

ABREVIATE BIOGRAPHY

Margaret Smithers-Crump is a Canadian artist based in Houston, Texas. She received her BFA in Painting from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio in 1973. For the last twenty years, Smithers-Crump has been exploring the creative potential of Plexiglas, in both painting and installations. Smithers-Crump has had a series of solo and group exhibitions throughout Texas and the United States including her recent one person exhibitions at the Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX, Galveston Art Center, Galveston, TX; Imperial Center for the Arts and Sciences, Rocky Mount, NC; Penn College of Technology - Penn State, Williamsport, PA; and Lawndale Art Center, Houston, TX. Additionally, she was one of eight artists selected from across North America for a solo exhibition at Manifest Gallery in Cincinnati, OH, in 2016. Her one-person exhibition, "In Silence", was also on view at the Beeville Art Museum in Texas on April of 2017.