



VANDALIA “CHISELED”

STONE SCULPTURE SYMPOSIUM

SEPTEMBER 4 – 18, 2010



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Jon Barlow Hudson
Sculptor
Yellow Springs, Ohio
www.hudsonsculpture.com

A Word About Symposiums

“Sculpture symposia events, begun around 1959 in Austria, have spread around the world, including now Vandalia, Ohio. They are a wonderful experience for the sculptors to work with new materials, usually on a large scale, in new environments with new people to meet. They provide an opportunity for the host community and its public to meet and get to know sculptors from far flung locals and to observe the growth and development of a sculptural work of art. Once the sculptures are finished, they are most often installed in the host community which increases its artistic heritage. The Vandalia Symposium has resulted in five wonderful sculptures which will now grace its community.”

– Jon Barlow Hudson

Artists:

Matthew Weir
John Leon
Todd Frahm
Lasha Khidasheli
Patrick Sullivan

PAIV Committee Members:

Corey Follick
Heather Combs
Constance Woods
Arlene Setzer
Denise Gerhard
Candice Farst



A Message from The Public Art in Vandalia Committee

The City of Vandalia began the journey toward the enrichment of community cultural arts in 2001 by creating a fund with the Vandalia-Butler Foundation. The formation of the Public Art in Vandalia (PAIV) Committee in 2007 created the mission of bringing permanent public art to the City. A stone sculpture symposium rose to the top of the committee's list since this would result in Vandalia becoming home to several original, significant public art pieces—permanently. Since Vandalia would celebrate its 50th Anniversary as a City in 2010, it was decided the first project would commemorate and celebrate that milestone. The committee began researching, and ultimately planning, Vandalia “Chiseled.”

Since the City of Kettering, Ohio, hosted a sculpture symposium in 2001, the Committee contacted Connie Campbell, Kettering's Cultural Arts Superintendent, who generously shared critical background and budget information. Jon Barlow Hudson, an internationally-recognized sculptor living in Yellow Springs, Ohio, provided an immense amount of advice and the confidence to move forward on this huge project.

A vacation to Winter Harbor, Maine, and a visit to the Schoodic International Sculpture Symposium in 2009 enabled talks with Jesse Salisbury, David Sywalzski, and Jane and Peter Weil, who offered information on the various facets involved in hosting a symposium. A trip to Bloomington, Indiana, enabled discussions with Amy Brier, director of the Indiana Limestone Symposium, whose suggestions enlightened our group further.

After compiling a budget and timetable—and gathering our “Friends,” we were off and running toward producing a symposium in September of 2010.

The committee decided to publicize the “Call to Artists” to sculptors able to work within the United States. We received twenty-two such applicants. Jane Black, Director of the Dayton Visual Arts Center, Thomas Macaulay, Professor of Art at Wright State University, and Jon Barlow Hudson, aided in the two sessions to select the five members of our symposium.

Committee members applied for grants and sought donations to add to our existing funds. The DP&L Foundation was the first to jump on board with a generous grant that allowed us to increase the size of the blocks of limestone offered to the sculptors. The enthusiasm was building and we were gathering great partners – allowing the expansion of all of the components sought to be included in the symposium.

The buzz of excitement and rising anticipation was especially felt when more than 100 volunteers signed up to act as the event docents. An opening ceremony introduced the artists to the public and began their relationships with the community. The next 14 days produced a lifetime of memories as the public was able to really connect with the artists. Watching forms emerge from the blocks astonished everyone and many visitors came back often to see the daily progress. As people finally understood the symposium, they embraced it. The benefits of holding the public event became evident. Though Vandalia said “goodbye” to the five artists during a closing ceremony, the sculptures were now a permanent part of our City.

In 2011, PAIV finalized the permanent locations for the sculptures and began planning their installation. Installation took place in early September and the dedication event, Chiseled Unveiled, took place on September 18, 2011 with an “art crawl” to the five sculpture locations and an afternoon full of “art appreciation” at Lichtenfels Park. Again, this event could not have happened without the support of our previous and new partners.

Vandalia “Chiseled” not only gave us five giant steps toward a gallery of public art in Vandalia, but more incredibly, gave us an event where we opened our imaginations and hearts to new ideas—and were amazed by them.

Thanks to everyone involved in making “Chiseled” a reality.

Sincerely,

Candice Farst

Vandalia City Council, PAIV Liaison

Public Art In Vandalia Committee Members in 2010

Heather Combs, Corey Follick, Denise Gerhard, Arlene Setzer,

Constance Woods, Candice Farst, Julie Trick



Todd Frahm
Solsberry, IN
tkfrahm@gmail.com
"**Bellwether**"

Public art has been a primary focus of Todd's since 1998. In the last eleven years he has completed eleven large-scale public commissions. In July of 2005, he carved a large limestone piece entitled *Slow and Steady* for the Urbana Free Library in Illinois. In August of 2006, he completed his largest sculpture to date entitled *Arcas* for the Atkins Group, a residential and commercial land development company also in Urbana. In 2007, the president of Fullerton College in Southern California commissioned a piece entitled *Tomorrow's Present*. He was invited as a visiting artist during the Spring semester and carved the sculpture on site over a five-week period. The piece is now a part of the Fullerton College sculpture park collection. He has recently completed a limestone commission for the Indianapolis International Airport.





“I’d like to imagine a world where frogs and humans
always happily coexist, but if I have to pick...
I choose frogs.” – *Todd Frahm*



Lasha Khidasheli

Charlotte, NC

lashastudio@yahoo.com

"Sunset"

Lasha was born in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia in November of 1971. He attended the State Academy of Fine Arts from 1989 to 1995, graduating with a Master's Degree with the qualification of Artist-Sculptor. He then worked as an instructor at the Academy from 1995 to 1998 and has been participating in international exhibits from 1995 to the present. Lasha wants to show people how impressive and exciting it is to see how abstract forms evolve out of a block of stone into a vision for the public to experience for lifetimes. For him, stone is a material which allows an opportunity to create an unlimited idea within a limited medium. Working in stone is an integral part of his life. "When I see a block of stone, ideas flow into my mind, and I feel like I am reborn. When I touch the stone for the first time, it is the beginning of meditation and creation, which will transform me into a deep movement within time and space surrounding me." The title of his sculpture is *Sunset* and it symbolizes the ending of the day, which is a connection to the past.



“I am a person deeply driven by concerns of the existential relationship of time, space and human interaction. The sculptures express my basic philosophy of existence, time, mass and energy. The essence of my artistic views is revealed in *Sunset*”

– *Lasha Khidasheli*





John Leon

Cincinnati, OH

jlsculptor@gmail.com

"Inward and Outward: All in All"

John's family came from Greece in 1955. John has taken many art courses and has studied with private artists, but early on earned his living as a respiratory therapist. He is married with two children. He started sculpting in high school and made his passion his profession in 1980. John works in bronze, stone, wood and ceramics, on scales from intimate table top sizes to monumental. His sculpture is figurative and ranges from the exacting realism of portrait busts to very loose abstractions concerned with concepts but rooted in subject matter. John has work in collections in Saudi Arabia, England, Costa Rica and throughout the US and Canada. He has executed commissions for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Procter & Gamble, The Kroger Company, The Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens, The Corbett Foundation, The University of Dayton, The Jewish Federation of Cincinnati, Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park and Arboretum, Fort Lupton, Colorado Fire Department, John A. Logan College, and others. He has had his pieces in one-man and group shows at many galleries and museums in North and Central America. He is currently represented by 5th Street Gallery in Cincinnati and Bryant Galleries in New Orleans.



“The form has a sheltering quality...
like two parents and a child or
two people nurturing something.”

– *John Leon*



Patrick Sullivan
Squamish, BC, Canada
pat2shar@shaw.ca

"Last Love VI"

Patrick was born in Seattle, Washington and raised in British Columbia, Canada. He studied sculpture with Barrie Holmes, Vancouver, Canada, and further studied sculpture at The Emily Carr University of Art and Design in Vancouver, Canada from 1979 to 1981. He also studied with German sculptor Gerhard Class and worked with him and 25 other international sculptors in his first sculpture symposium in Lahr, West Germany. Since the early 1980's, Patrick has worked consistently on sculpture projects throughout British Columbia and has completed more than 100 sculptures in a variety of stones. Patrick has completed numerous public commissions in and around Whistler, BC, Canada. He completed a commission of a four stone sculpture series in 2008 titled "Last Love" – Series II-V Bridgeheads, realized out of four blocks of Whistler Black Basalt. He prefers to do as much hand carving as possible and to work directly with the stone to capture the essence of feeling from the moment of creation. Since leaving Vandalia, Patrick was a selected finalist in the 2011, \$1.1 million Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada Public Art Competition.



“Last Love VI
(was) expanded further to
explore the
blending of
cultures:
America,
the original
people here,
the Native
American
and the
contemporary
settlers...”

– *Patrick Sullivan*





Matthew Weir

Louisville, KY

matthewpatrickweir@gmail.com

"At Play in Geologic Time"

Matthew Weir is a sculptor in Louisville, Kentucky. His past work is diverse, comprised of stone and woodcarving, blacksmithing, digital photography, bronze sculpture, and synthetic material works. Weir is a naturalist and scientist in thought and a sculptor at work; the systems, behaviors and materials of natural selections evolving world are his portfolio and tools. Weir received his BFA from the Hite Art Institute at the University of Louisville in 2004. Weir's classical training, however, evolved through concurrent apprenticeships with a distinguished line of artists and studios, including The Bright Foundry, with whom Weir has been a sculptor and employee for nearly a decade. Weir states he not only prides himself on this diversity and those learned capabilities; but furthermore, sees within them the reciprocal responsibility he has to his work, his audience and his intellect. Weir's perspective is that of a trained artist and a student of natural history, within this view he strives to usher individual inquiry and perspective through the synthesis and presentation of his work, materials, and ultimately, concepts. "Working with my fellow sculptors in Vandalia was an incredible art experience and a perfectly ideal creative environment. After the first week, I recognized that these relationships would last a lifetime. Thank you to the people and to the City of Vandalia for being so bold and welcoming to the artists and the arts."





“As far as humans go, we now live in this world of competitive ideas... could be religion, a superstition, or some catch phrase that gets stuck in your head and you just can’t shake.” – *Matthew Weir*



1

Bellwether

Artist: Todd Frahm
Vandalia Recreation Center
1111 Stonequarry Rd.

2

Last Love VI

Artist: Patrick Sullivan
Seger Park
23 Tionda Dr. South



3

Sunset

Artist: Lasha Khidasheli
Vandalia Justice Center
245 J.E. Bohanan Dr.

4

Inward and Outward: All in All

Artist: John Leon
Cassel Hills Golf Course
201 Clubhouse Way



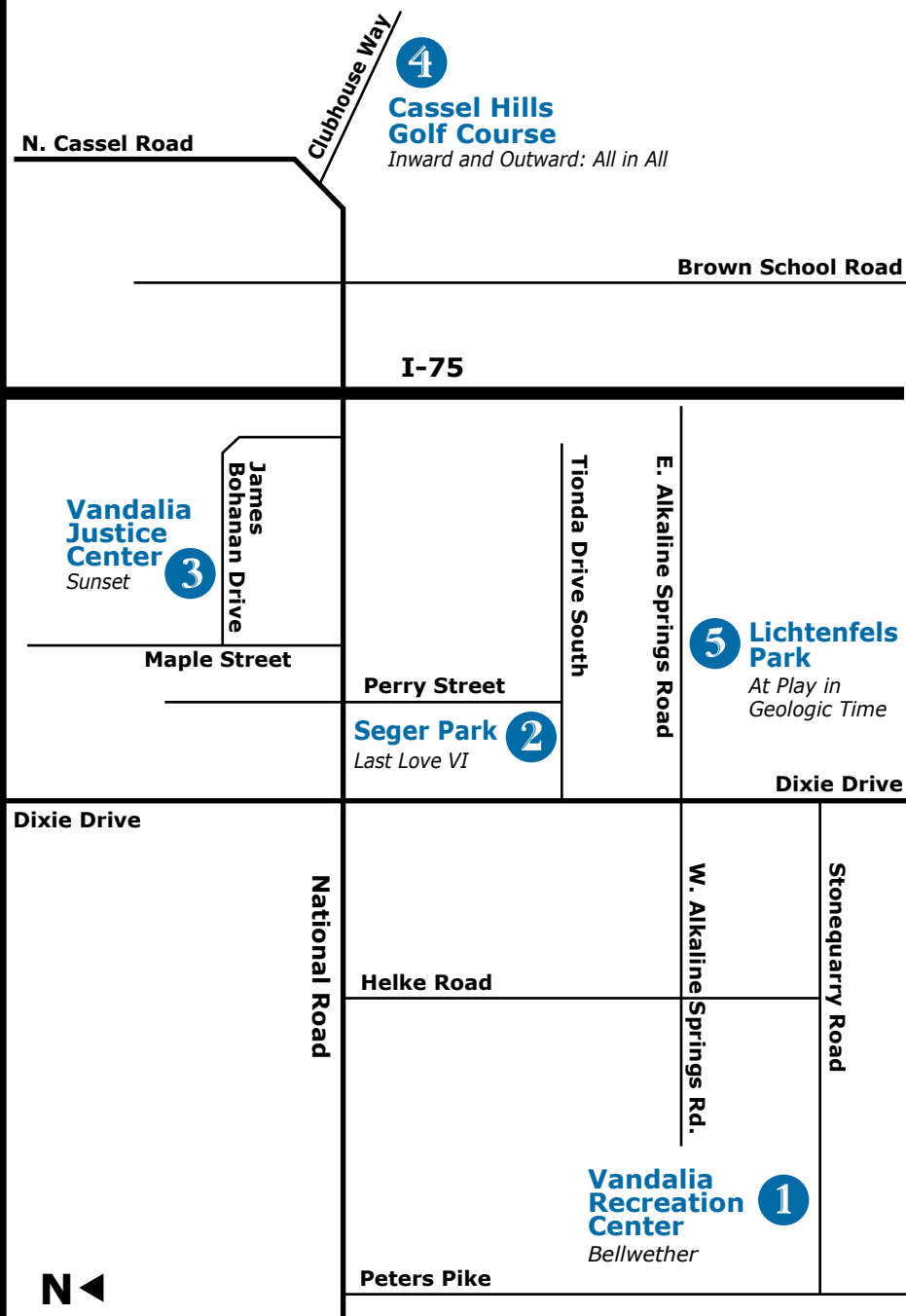
5

At Play in Geologic Time

Artist: Matthew Weir
Lichtenfels Park
256 E. Alkaline Springs Rd.

Vandalia Chiseled “Unveiled”

Permanent Locations





Educational Focus

Watching the chips fly was only the beginning of a unique experience for more than 2,400 students from St. Christopher and Vandalia-Butler Schools. Teachers were provided packets of information to prepare the students; however, their eyes widened when they actually saw the artists at work. They were often able to speak with the artists and ask phenomenal questions. Most were able to touch the sculptures and pick up limestone chips to take with them.

One of the planned hands-on activities during their visit was to select authentic chiseling tools, along with the protective glasses and gloves, to try their skill of hand sculpting on blocks of limestone. The activity captivated their imagination and began their intrigue. Many students returned to the symposium with their families to educate and explain the “how to’s” to anyone in listening range.

While in a world of inspiration outside of the classroom, the students were asked to sketch a sculpture they would like to chisel and then title it. Many were also able to complete a magnetic sculpture using bolts, nails, washers and other metal objects.

Evening walkers at the Vandalia Recreation Center, the symposium location, could often witness students from the Vandalia-Butler High School film class collecting photographs and interviews for the YouTube.com video they later produced.

The Boy Scouts of America Miami Valley Council, along with their advisors, carved Styrofoam blocks into sculptures as part of their sculpting merit badge requirement on the symposium grounds during both weekends of the symposium. They were able to interact and ask questions of the artists during these sessions. Seeing the artists working on the large blocks of limestone was a huge inspiration for their own creative work.

Through an outstanding partnership with the school district, and the enthusiasm and support of teachers, administrators and parent volunteers, students experienced looking at art from a variety of perspectives.



“Public art engages us by bringing us together in a community of creativity! The beauty and appeal of public art, as with all other forms, encourages all of us, especially our young people, to be more involved in the world around us. We want to be where there are creative processes and community engagement and public art provides a forum for that to happen.” – Ginny Strausburg, Executive Director, DP&L Foundation, Dayton, Ohio

Community Spotlight

The Vandalia community stepped forward to provide a truly hometown welcome for the five sculpture artists. Over 100 community volunteers acted as hosts to the estimated 6,000 visitors to the symposium over the two week period. These volunteers were an integral force that made the symposium a success.

An array of opportunities enabled the community to interact with the artists. Members of the Rotary Club, Optimist Club, City of Vandalia employees, Stillwater Church, WINGs, Hearth & Home and DVAC Artists Group brought meals on site to share with the artists. The artists often were able to discuss their experiences of being part of the first symposium in Vandalia and the progress of their sculpture. Local restaurants and businesses donated the majority of the lunches, dinners, drinks and snacks. Every evening, local Boy Scout Troop 466 cleaned the excess stone material so the artists were ready to begin their work early the next day. Every morning, the City of Vandalia Parks and Recreation staff was available to support the committee and artists. A first for these five artists were the chair massages donated by one local wellness center — giving them a reprieve from the muscle strain which occurs from pounding on stone every day.

Community organizations including Rotary Club of Vandalia, Historical Society of Vandalia-Butler, Vandalia Senior Citizens, and Charleston Woods Subdivision Block Party invited the artists to dinners with their members. The PAIV Committee hosted a dinner with the artists and local dignitaries and symposium donors. Most evenings, each artist had the opportunity to discuss his background and explain the meaning of the sculpture he was creating. A quote from one attendee spoke volumes, “I did not know anything about a sculpture symposium but this event has opened my eyes to what permanent art sculptures mean for our city for years to come. Thank you.” A Wine Tasting event allowed the screening of the “almost” completed sculptures and some final remarks from the artists while tasting good food and great wines. The ticketed event at the sculpture site brought out over 100 local citizens.

Many of the visitors who had been tracking the work in progress of the sculptures attended the Closing Ceremony to view the completed art pieces and listen to the artists’ final remarks. Thus began the greater appreciation for permanent art in our city.





“Each artwork introduced into the public sphere marks a place in the built or natural environment of our community. These public artworks function not just as landmarks that enhance the visual environment surrounding us but equally, or even more importantly, they exist to engage citizens in a dialogue. Our repeated encounters with the artworks should evoke varying responses over time. Reconsidered meaning can be an ongoing discussion drawing on personal insight. Public art plays an important role in city life by making anyplace into someplace, and through time, that place or even our place.”

– Thomas Macaulay, Professor of Art, Department of Art and Art History, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio





This project was made possible through the generous participation of many individuals, organizations and businesses. The Public Art in Vandalia Committee was the inspiration and force behind this event. The City of Vandalia's City Manager's Office, along with the Vandalia Parks and Recreation Department and the Vandalia Public Works Division, were essential for the success of Vandalia "Chiseled".

MAJOR SPONSORS

Public Art in Vandalia Program
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Montgomery County
Arts & Culture District
Ohio Arts Council

Vandalia Cultural Arts Program
DP&L Foundation
Vectren Foundation
Vandalia-Butler Foundation

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Woods Financial Group

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(\$100 to \$499)

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Lee Hendricks, DDS
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CITIZENS FOR VANDALIA ART

(up to \$99)

Kevin and Julie Larger
Jim Weller
Houser Asphalt
Ms. Rose Chin

Steven Reed Insurance Agency, Inc.
Jeff and Jennifer Hoagland
Jan Flynn - Abbey Credit Union

Thank you to the following individuals for their participation in this event:

Jon Hudson	Thomas Macaulay
Jane Black	Connie Campbell
Amy Brier	Steve Mahoney
Emily Esau	Andy Amlin

Lee Hendricks, DDS

Thank you to the following organizations and businesses for their contributions:

Vandalia-Butler City Schools
Vandalia-Butler Chamber of Commerce
Historical Society of Vandalia-Butler
Vandalia Senior Citizens Center
Charleston Woods Subdivision
Hearth and Home Assisted Living
At Peace Massage & Wellness
Original Rib House
Stillwater Seventh Day Adventist Church
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Vandalia Drummer News
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Independent Limestone Co.
BSA Miami Valley Council
Coldwater Cafe
World Cafe
Vandalia Blacktop & Sealcoating, Inc.
Allen Farst, Niche Productions
Dodds Monuments





**CELEBRATING THE PAST AND CREATING THE FUTURE.....
VANDALIA TOOK THE FIRST FIVE STEPS TO A GALLERY OF PUBLIC ART.**



**For information on future public arts projects,
visit www.vandaliaohio.org**