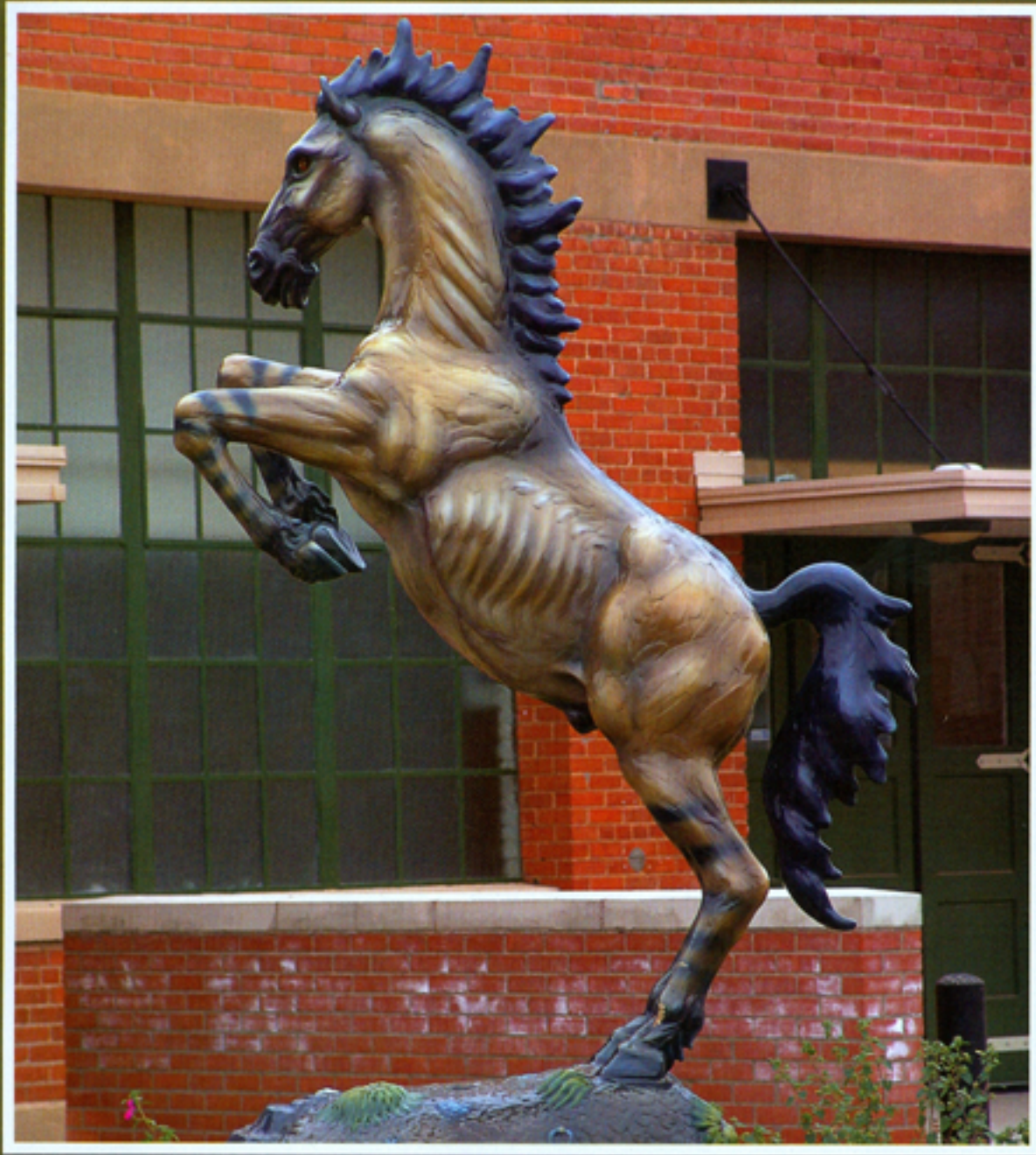


artfullyabilene

A Publication of the Abilene Cultural Affairs Council

JULY | AUGUST | SEPTEMBER 2010



"Marengo" by Leo J. Janda. Photograph by Steve Bulman, Steve Bulman Photography

James Surls Curates 30th Anniversary Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition

Abilene receives state designation from
the Texas Commission on the Arts.

2010 ARTS CALENDAR

onstage

celebrating **YEARS** of outdoor sculpture

Rewind to 1981 when the first Abilene Cultural Affairs Council's Outdoor Sculpture exhibition opened in April as part of Abilene's Centennial celebration. Sculptors James Surls, Scott Madison, Mac Whitney and Ben Woitena were the first sculptors to participate in the exhibit. Back to present day, James Surls, who is now recognized throughout the world as one of the foremost sculptors of our time, will curate and participate in the 30th Annual Outdoor Sculpture exhibition. The celebration of thirty years of Outdoor Sculpture will commence during Artfully Abilene Art & Culture Weekend, September 17-18, 2010.



Over the past thirty years, the variety has been remarkable, with vast differences of intent and style. In the first decade, Bert Long used his tremendous talent and skill to transform 30,000 pounds of ice into his masterpiece, "Creativity." Several years later Joe Barrington created "4 Ravens Never More." These birds continue to watch, from their perch, our ever evolving Zoo activities. More recently Bob Wade's "Dino Bob" brought the community together as families rallied behind the "Save Dino Bob" campaign when "Bob's" livelihood was threatened.

Throughout the years, many of the sculptures have been purchased by interested businesses and donors, resulting in a permanent collection of sculpture for the city that enhances our

cultural landscape. Art lovers can pick up an Outdoor Sculpture Brochure and take a tour of Abilene's twenty five sculptures, seventeen of which came by way of the sculpture exhibition.

Another exciting component of the celebration is the return of many artists who have participated in past Outdoor Sculpture exhibitions. Artists such as Jesus Moroles, Bert Long, and Bob Wade will exhibit smaller sculptures in a collaborative of 35 past artists. This exhibit will be at the Center for Contemporary Arts during September and October of 2010.

Throughout the past three decades, Abilene's sculpture exhibition has inspired both praise and criticism, comment and editorial, and in every instance, an opportunity for the public to become engaged in the creative process. The Abilene Cultural Affairs Council looks forward to the reunion of creative souls in September, and to the next thirty years of sculpture in Abilene!

For a listing of events happening during Art & Culture Weekend please see page 26.