AN EXHIBITION OF KENTUCKY FOLK ART

Produced by Phyllis George

In partnership with

The Kentucky Folk Art Center

in collaboration with

The Kentucky Craft Marketing Program

The Kentucky Art and Craft Foundation, Inc.

The Great American Spirit
Kentucky Folk Artists Salute

The Great American Spirit
Bill Brown "Rising Above the Rubble" Acrylic on creekstone
Kentucky Folk Artists Salute

The Great American Spirit

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On the cover:

Minnie Adkins and Herman Peters
“Patriotic Eagle”
Sculpture
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Developing an exhibition that is inspired by a human disaster is a dubious proposition that comes with some absolute cautions. Any such project must at all costs avoid exploiting the tragedy in question, and avoid compromising the seriousness of the subject. With so much already written and said about the terrorist attacks, it became more and more difficult not to slip into one of the many clichés that infiltrated our speech through the repetitive pounding of television news coverage.

If the events of September 11th, 2001, have been indelibly imprinted on our minds, it’s in large part because such an unprecedented disaster left us speechless. It also left newsmen and women momentarily speechless, leading them to fill airtime with the same video clips over and over again. Certain nightmarish images captured the dark side of our imagination: planes crashing into the twin towers, fireballs, disintegrating skyscrapers, and that fearsome, boiling wall of smoke and dust rolling down the avenue behind terrified, fleeing pedestrians.

After the idea was first suggested, these were the considerations that guided development of this exhibition. A call was put out requesting submissions for a show that took the creative pulse of Kentucky’s folk artists in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks. The response was swift and ferocious. These artists very definitely had statements to make.

What further validates this project is that the 38 artists, whose 43 works of art make up this exhibition, have approached the subject in widely different ways. Such a kaleidoscope of honest, personal viewpoints goes to the heart of our society, like a reading of our collective vital signs. These images may not be pleasant, but it’s not the duty of artists to make us feel comfortable. As long as free speech and free artistic expression remain alive, our society stands a good chance of retaining its integrity. The diversity presented here passes the litmus test that confirms our personal freedom and our continued ability to voice opinion free from coercion.

Sincerely,

Garry Barker                  Adrian Swain
Director, KFAC                Curator, KFAC
All of us have been touched forever by the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

As President Bush said in his address to our nation that evening, "It all happened on a single day, but night fell on a different world."

The world has now watched our great American spirit soar from the ashes of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Every person in America is asking how they can respond to our country’s call for unity and patriotism at this time of crisis.

Throughout history, America’s folk artists have captured the spirit of their time by creating works with their hands that express what is in our minds and hearts.

At this turbulent time in our nation’s history, I invited Kentucky’s folk artists to help us capture our country’s current emotions by creating pieces for a very special folk art exhibit titled “Kentucky Folk Artists Salute the Great American Spirit.”

The nationally respected Kentucky Folk Art Center at Morehead State University agreed to coordinate and curate the exhibit. The Kentucky Craft Marketing Program in Frankfort and the Kentucky Art and Craft Foundation in Louisville also collaborated with us.

Folk artists were invited to submit up to three pieces. Those whose pieces were accepted were eligible for merit prizes, and were told their works would be showcased at the 20th anniversary Kentucky Crafted: The Market, to be held in Louisville at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center February 28 – March 3, 2002.

The artists were told that a selection of pieces from the exhibit would also be displayed in Louisville from June 15 – August 15, 2002 at the Kentucky Art and Craft Foundation’s Brown-Forman Gallery. The exhibition will be shown in its entirety at the Kentucky Folk Art Center in Morehead from November 3, 2002 through February 8, 2003. We will continue to seek additional places for people to view this unique exhibit in other parts of the country and around the world.

The beautiful works these folk artists have created reflect our spirit and emotions at this extraordinary moment in our country’s history. I know they will inspire us and help us heal.

There will always be a special place in my heart for Kentucky’s folk artists. I am grateful to have had an opportunity to work with so many of them on this very important project.

Sincerely,

Phyllis George

Photo by Exley Foto, Inc.

Phyllis George founded the Kentucky Craft Marketing Program and the Kentucky Art and Craft Foundation twenty years ago as First Lady of Kentucky. She is still an ardent advocate and collector.
Minnie Adkins & Herman Peters
Isomville, Elliott County

"Patriotic Eagle"
(Sculpture)
Iron pipe and enamel paint

We created the Patriotic Eagle, a one-of-a-kind folk art sculpture, in response to the September 11th terrorist attack. The bald eagle, which symbolizes the USA, is decorated with a full American flag on her tail. Her wings are outstretched and embellished with the following inscriptions: “Don’t bother her nest, she is made out of iron,” which is a statement of how tough and strong (like iron) America can be, especially when her home (nest) is bothered. On the other wing is written “God Bless America” and “Love One Another.” We both feel very strongly about these two things. First, that America should trust God and that as Christians we have a commandment set for us in John 15:12: “This is my commandment. That ye love one another, as I have loved you.” It is this statement that can be said to be the underlying theme of this artwork that is submitted in honor of those who willingly gave their lives to help others. John 15:13: “Greater love hath no man then this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”
Janice Harding Owens  
*Mt. Vernon, Rockcastle County*

"Humpty Dumpty Sam, A Time to Heal" (Painting)  
Acrylics

I have painted many Humpty Dumpty Sams...all sweet, fragile and innocent. But after September 11, I realized just how fragile our freedom really is. It must be protected and nurtured and when it is injured and broken, it will take more than all the President's horses and all the President's men to put it back together again. It will take a nation, one people of many colors with the most important colors being red, white and blue. We may be fearful of what lies ahead, but as we begin the cleanup and repair of our broken nation and in the flying of our flag, we will remember that we must never take our freedom for granted, that we must be good stewards of this country of ours. In the doing of these things and with time, we will heal.
Mary Craik  
*Louisville, Jefferson County*

"Ground Zero" (Quilt)  
Fused cotton and synthetic fiber appliqué with machine quilting

Most of the images in my head concerning the 9-11 terrorist attack are from the extensive coverage on television. I was outraged and physically ill. I needed to deal with this tragedy and felt a desire to express this through my artwork. The rubble and steel girders were telecast repeatedly. A few weeks after the collapse of the Twin Towers, I saw a view of Manhattan without them. I imagined that their ghosts were still floating in the sky. The soldier with the rifle with the flower in the barrel represents my desire for peace and security.
I am sixty-seven years old and I have been interested in art all of my life. Shortly after the September 11 attack on America, a small plane flew over. It gave me such a bad feeling. I thought all of America feels this way. I decided to paint this picture instead of the one I had planned. I tried to put all of the things I was feeling into it. I tried to make Uncle Sam look a bit like our President because I feel like he is calling us to arms and to be united. I feel the people under the buildings are rising out of the rubble as America will rise above this tragedy. I hope this is as uplifting a painting to others as it is to me.
In this painting, I have chosen to use a blue sky as the setting for three long-standing symbols of America which I feel represent our beliefs and way of life. The first symbol is the American flag, which represents the freedom given to us through the bravery and lost lives of those who have served their country. The second is the American bald eagle, which represents the strength of our great nation. And third, clasped in the talons of the eagle, is the Constitution of the United States, which represents the unity of the American people. I feel that by using these three symbols I have reflected upon the pride and spirit of America and her people.
Bonita Skaggs-Parsons  
_Sandy Hook, Elliott County_

“Conquering the Dragon” (Sculpture)  
Wood and acrylic

_In this woodcarving, I used the dragon to symbolize terrorism. The idea of Uncle Sam having him by the reins is to show that we are trying to control our emotions and the situation. The soldier carrying the flag is my way of honoring the brave people in service and out who are fighting back in their own ways. The tank shows our ability to conquer all obstacles while the bomb and plane show the strength and power we possess as we stand as one._
Ben Mansur
Cynthiana, Harrison County

"Aerial Act (911)" (Sculpture)
Painted wood

At first glance, "Aerial Act (911)" depicts American bald eagles at play: one carrying, dropping and then re-catching the other in the sky. As with everything else in our country since 9-11, this playful bird has taken on new meaning: that of Americans reaching out and helping each other. The yellow snaps for feet on the birds represent the security one feels when buckled in or snapped on, as in this case snapped on to freedom.
C.M. “Mike” Laster  
Crofton, Christian County

“Evil Showed Its Face Today” (Painting)  
Enamel paint on scrap metal

Evil showed its face today! I painted this while the towers were falling. I was at work and was told to turn on the news by a material supplier over the phone. When I did, I saw something I couldn't believe. The only thing I could do was stop working, grab up some scrap metal and paint what I was seeing. This painting and two others were completed before the second tower was hit. I could only think about what evil had taken place and felt I had seen evil's face. I had put two planes in the devil's hands and he was grabbing the world trade centers. Then the other tower was hit as I watched. I think this art shows what we all saw September 11, 2001. It will document our tragedy always.
C.M. "Mike" Laster  
_Crofton, Christian County_

"Moment of Impact (Tower #2)" (Painting)  
Enamel paint on plywood

_I saw this image in the grain of the plywood I wanted to use. The demon in the clouds and an arm outstretched forward was there in the wood. I put in the rest. The image of when I saw Tower 2 hit live on T.V. was so strong to me that I felt I was having this vision to create that moment in time. I can't put into words really what this means. I usually write on my art, but I think this one says it already._
AMERICA'S NEW WAR
Jessie T Cooper 2001
Jessie Cooper  
Flemingsburg, Fleming County  

“America’s New War” (Painting) 
Wood and paint  

Terrorists struck September 11, 2001. After this happened, I had fear. I think most people feel a little fear most of the time. I feel better now that several of the other countries are trying to locate the terrorists and bring them to justice.
Lonnie and Twyla Money

East Bernstadt, Laurel County

"The Face of America" (Sculpture)
Wood, glass, and paint

The flag is a true symbol of the United States of America and what we have stood for and the lives given for it. As we look at the flag and see our reflection in the mirror, we should realize that we are America.
Grace Kelly Laster
Crofton, Christian County

"American Dreamers in Search of the Promised Land"
(Painting)
Acrylic on wood

This piece is Gladys, Elvis and Vernon Presley during the Great Depression. They were very poor at the time but very proud, and hoped for a better day. I made this to represent the dreams of the people of America—and the hope we have of realizing them. The spirit of America holds both freedom and unending possibility. Yes we live in the land of milk and honey, but not all of us have reached the promised land of our hopes and dreams. But in America we have a promise of the freedom to pursue them. We see that many other people in the world are denied their basic freedoms and can have no dreams for a better life. If we are to be truly worthy of our nation's bounty, we should be fighting only to share our freedom and riches with the oppressed people of the world—at home and abroad.
Ron Gevedon  
*Cannel City, Morgan County*

“Patriotism Is Learned At The Breast Of The Motherland” (Painting)  
Acrylics

*Except for “Lo,” which is a basic memento mori piece, my works are meant to evoke a darker, more cynical patriotism deeply rooted in the psyche in the ideals of nationalism. Past this introduction, the viewer must make his own interpretations and judgments.*
Ron Gevedon
Cannel City, Morgan County

"And Lo, A Great Fire Fell From The Sky" (Painting)
Acrylics
Genevieve Wilson  
Russell Springs, Russell County

“Old Glory Rises Above The Ruins” (Painting)  
Acrylics

Seeing the photos of the ruins of the tower and seeing the flag on TV, and in the newspapers and magazines, that was found amid the ruins by a fireman inspired me to do this painting. It raised hopes, love and a feeling that we will heal, that our country again will rise above our wounds to conquer tyranny! I condensed the ruins by enlarging the flag to show we will overcome this hardship, this wounding of people’s lives, our own deep loss—we are a strong people, a strong nation—this wonderful America of Freedom, Liberty, Justice for all.

Genevieve Wilson  
Russell Springs, Russell County

“The Eagle’s Wrath Against Evil” (Painting)  
Acrylics

This painting was inspired by the news that Bin Laden is on the run. Showing the Eagle (America) angry against Bin Laden, instigator, leader of the terrorists that murdered innocent Americans, destroyer of the World Trade Towers. The label with Bin Laden’s name on it is in the shape of a snake representing him as evil, which he is! We are in for a long time in fighting this evil—but we will overcome—we do what we must!
Lonnie and Twyla Money
East Bernstadt, Laurel County

“Justice” (Sculpture)
Painted gourds

We have always had a great love and respect for our country; but the events of 9-11-01 were a great wake-up call to all Americans. This event helped us to realize what true freedom really is and how fast we could lose it. With God’s help we can overcome the evil of the world. This represents the spirit of the nation that we desire justice for the evil act of 9-11-01. The eagle represents the power and strength of the people of the United States of America and their resolve to see justice served. The dragon represents the evil that prevails in the world. With God’s help, justice will prevail.

(Left)
Lonnie and Twyla Money
East Bernstadt, Laurel County

“United We Stand” (Sculpture)
Painted Wood

This represents the spirit after 9-11-01, of all people coming together in united spirit.
Did I hear you say?

Did I hear you say?
All the people in the tower fell to their knees to pray
As the walls fell away.
Candles, lit all over town, as darkness fell.
People, praying they would all be found.
Flicker and flames,
While loved ones to the Lord called their names,
Did I hear you say?
How many fell that day?
When the heart of a nation broke in two.
Oh, where were you?
Praying too.
Thanking the Lord it wasn't you.
Did you think the end of time was here?
Soon Jesus would appear?
Did I hear you say?
Oh God, I am not ready for the judgment day.
Did you fly the red, white and blue?
Was the spirit of unity now flooding over you?
Did I hear you say?
America, turn back to God today
Before it's everlasting too late.
Things set in motion,
What will be, we have yet to see.
How long can a nation stay in unity?
Must be forever.
Soon the end of time will be.
Will it catch you bound or free?
Did I hear you say?
Oh Lord, don't come today!
I still need time to pray.
Did I hear you say?
Oh Lord, please don't come today.
Ray Dunhuber
Campton, Wolfe County

"Memories and Hope"
(Painted Found Object)
Acrylics on Gourd

When I was a teenager, I went to see the Statue of Liberty and at that time was allowed to climb all the way up to the head. What a view!
The images I've painted on this tall gourd depict September 10, then rotate to September 12. They rotate to America's hope for the future. I hope you can see what I was trying to depict.

I feel really privileged to show my depiction of a scene that I saw as a young man and that my parents saw as they came into New York harbor as immigrants before the World Trade Center was built.

Then in one terrifying day, we witnessed the destruction of buildings and human life.

9/11/01 will never be forgotten.
Hazel Kinney
Flemingsburg, Fleming County

"Uncle Sam Weds The Statue of Liberty"
(Painting)
Acrylics
I was born and raised as an American girl. I am really proud to be an American. I believe in supporting our country and what it stands for. As a child I always enjoyed pledging allegiance to our flag each morning in school and at church. Occasionally we still do. I always liked Uncle Sam, the Statue of Liberty and the Liberty Bell because they all stand for our freedom. I am proud for what they stand for and I am glad to live in the good old USA. I call it my home sweet home.

I am so glad we have liberty and freedom and are still free to attend church services. Hopefully our churches will never be taken from us. I am glad God created us and gave us a choice to serve him and to be good and kind to our fellow men. Long may our flag wave over the USA, and may God bless us all.
Tony Woollard
Louisville, Jefferson County

“Dyslexic Jihad: War on the Great Santa #2” (Painting)
Glue stick, sharpie and paint

I think it’s all about the production of images. Painting used to be the privileged form of the production of images, then photography, video….Actually, I’m not so interested in the production of images as in their manipulation. Obviously this leads to a sort of “journal-ism” (in both senses of the word), and I try to offset the notion of “news” with the first-person reaction (the “journal” part). Consequently, collage and mixed media stuff is pretty much where I’m at. The screwy part is figuring out the function of text in this context. Text, as a graphic, carries a lot of the same baggage as lyrics in a song, but non-graphic chunks of text generate a different relationship to the pictures. I dunno, it’s the stuff I wonder about.
David Lucas
Haymond, Letcher County

"Uncommon Valor" (Painting)
Oil on canvas

I joined the Marine Corps in 1969 and was sent to Parris Island. I found boot camp hard going. My barrack was located across from the Iwo Jima Monument, which is lighted at night. I thought how hard and how much the men suffered who fought and died and did not give up. I took heart and decided not to give up as well. To do or die trying. When things get rough even now, that image still comes to mind.
Genevieve Wilson
Russell Springs, Russell County

"America: Education For All Children, Boys And Girls" (Painting)
Acrylics

America, how fortunate I, a woman, was born to be an American!
In America I can be cherished and was, as a daughter, and a granddaughter, as a wife, as a mother.
In America I could go to school and choose my profession, and I did—eventually!
In America I can choose the way I want to dress—in comfort or in style.
In America I can come and go as I please.
In America I can choose who I wish to marry.
In America I can worship beside my husband, beside my sons.
How fortunate my daughter can do the same.
We walk beside our men with pride and dignity because—We are Americans!
Milford Miller
Clay City, Powell County

"Everyday Hero" (Sculpture)
Painted Wood
Scott Scarboro
Louisville, Jefferson County

"The Devil Is A Highjacker" (Sculpture)
Remote control toy plane, wood, velvet and paint

It would be easy for the devil to find work for idle hands...
If we sat around and got depressed about the mess the world is in.
But if you get busy and do the things you like,
Spend time with your family and friends,
Love and laugh,
Use the evil deeds of others to try even harder to help others,
Then somehow we can rise above it.
Devils exist and they can win if you let them,
But with sharing your heart warmth, they cannot highjack our spirits.
Scott Scarboro
Louisville, Jefferson County

"American Dream Pipe Bomb" (Sculpture)
PVC pipe, electro-magnet, wood, bucket and junk

Ever since the deeds of September 11, a dark cloud has hung over the heads of the American People like a bomb dangling from fragile strings waiting to explode. But instead of hiding in our own bomb shelter protective shells, we bared ourselves, rolled up our sleeves and helped others out of the rubble. We took this time as an alarm clock, a warning light to make the most of our time. Do the things that we have been putting off.
Tell that special someone how you really feel. End your personal grudges. Get closer. No matter how much that devil rattles above our heads we never lose sight of our American Dreams.
Robert Brock
Richmond, Madison County

“Wanted” (Sculpture)
Painted Wood

Since 9-11, my work in Americana has taken a big turn, from the more peaceful, free and sometimes comical to a more serious look at what’s happened to our Land of the Free, and who is responsible. My Uncle Sam with his wanted poster answers any questions about who the guilty party is. This piece is whittled from well-seasoned native Kentucky holly, hand-painted with acrylics with a linseed oil finish. GOD BLESS AMERICA!
Ronald Cooper  
Flemingsburg, Fleming County

“Uncle Sam and Family”  
(Sculpture)  
Painted wood

Before the terrorists took down the Trade Center and the Pentagon and the plane crash in Pennsylvania that all together killed thousands and injured hundreds more...before this happened most of us never dreamed this could happen to us. It did. It has changed our lives in different ways, but most of us feel we need God even though we are a strong America. We still need the help of other countries to help rid us of the terrorists. But with America and its faith in God, we will win the new war on terrorists.
Rodney Boggs
Isomville, Elliott County

"USA Chained In Fear" (Sculpture)
Scrap metal and enamel paint

After the events of September 11th, I came off the road with an idea for a sculpture that would represent my feelings. I used two automobile camshafts to represent the Twin Towers in New York. The towers are leaning outward and red paint is pooled at their bases like blood. I attached a section of logging chain to the tops of the towers and draped it across the span between them to symbolize how we were all chained together with the terror we felt as we witnessed the destruction of the towers and the loss of innocent lives, and how that fear has bound us together as Americans regardless of our race or religion. The sculpture is made of metal, which shows our strength as we stand strongly united against terrorism. I painted the whole sculpture red, white and blue to signify the patriotism we feel. We are chained together by our initial fears and have been made strong in our love for our country.
Jim Lewis
*Sandy Hook, Elliott County*

"Justice For America"
(Sculpture)
Painted wood

*I think if the President keeps working against terrorism, our country will be safe to live in again. May Bush get Bin Laden under his foot, and may God bless America.*
Jo Ann Butts
Sandy Hook, Elliott County

“Kentucky Reform School” (Sculpture)
Wood and paint

In our great state of Kentucky, our men have always gone to war and were never afraid to fight when our country needed volunteers. As I watched in terror the hideous crimes that the terrorists inflicted upon our country on 9-11 of last year, it made my blood boil. I thought that we must have some sort of extreme punishment for these men for the awful crimes that they did to our American people so that other countries would fear to do the same. As I thought, I remembered our old chop block where many a farm animal met its fate. What better way to execute justice for these animal terrorists than to have them done the same way on national television.
Darlene Profitt
Clay City, Powell County

"First American Flag" (Sculpture)
Painted wood

I did my piece in the style of Betsy Ross. She is in her home sitting by the fireplace, sewing the flag that George Washington asked her to make. I did Betsy Ross and the first American flag because I feel it represents the pride and dignity of America.
Ron Owens  
Mt. Vernon,  
Rockcastle County  

"Uncle Sam"  
(Sculpture)  
Painted wood  

For the past few years I have spent most of my time making furniture; I make only a few wooden Uncle Sams and Santas each year. I made this Uncle Sam holding an American flag to represent my pride in America. I have him giving a peace sign, which to me, means that we want peace and we will do whatever we have to do to keep peace.
Gladys Wheeler
*Sandy Hook, Elliott County*

"UNITY" (Painting)
Acrylics

*Hands have been the subject of many of my paintings. Hands as in "shake hands" tell a story of unity, trust, respect, and honor to me. I thought of naming that picture, "Hands Across the Waters" but "Unity" said it all.*
I actually carved this piece as a usable walking cane. I thought it might be a good piece for this exhibit because so many people asked to look at it. This cane was hand carved using a jack-knife only. It was carved from a one and a half by one and a half inch piece of black walnut. The handle was carved from the same board in three dimension and joined together with dowel pins. The handle has emblems saluting our great United States and our heroes. The base is carved from one solid piece of basswood, approximately twenty-four and one half inches in width and fifteen inches in depth, and approximately two inches thick. One of the two coins that are inlaid in the handle is the New York state quarter and the other is one of the newest gold dollars. The large flag on the back of the cane was carved backward or upside down as a symbol for all the lives that have been turned upside down due to the terrible ordeal that took place on September 11, 2001, as all those left behind wish that they could turn back time.

Elijah Smith
Hazard, Perry County

“A Long Walk Home”
(Cane)
Black walnut, basswood and paint
Bernice Lewis
Isomville, Elliott County

“Don’t Mess With The US” (Cane)
Painted Wood

It was senseless disregard for a relaxed time and place, the payback for being so friendly and relaxed with foreign governments. I did the cane out of gratitude and thanks to President Bush for acting so fast and taking control of the situation. For that, the people of the United States owe him a debt of gratitude. I just want to say thanks, and it’s time we all stood up to be counted. Thank God for the United States.
Greg Seigel
Owenton, Owen County

"Homage to 10048" (Ceramics)
Slip Decorated Stoneware

I'd been making slipware plates around mid-November and I decided to try to "draw" one with the colored clay slip containers. I had been thinking a lot about the Trade Towers and Manhattan for some time, especially because my son Max lives not too far from the disaster. My piece is a loosely done "drawing" of the Trade Towers and some of the skyline and water. When the plate went into the kiln it was perfectly smooth and had a nice clear glaze applied. I expected to see a very clear, very shiny image, but for some reason the kiln did not fire evenly throughout and the plate was technically underfired by only a few degrees, thus making the glaze appear to be a little cloudy. But the really big surprise was the crackline that went through both towers. I had no idea what happened. Normally, if there is a problem with a piece, a crack will go all the way to or from an edge, but this one is clearly only in the interior of the plate. Everyone who has looked at it has an eerie feeling about that crackline and the impression that the city is seen through a haze or dust cloud.
Teresa Adkins
Isomville, Elliott County

"America in the Big Apple" (Quilt)
Fabric

I made this apple quilt to symbolize my patriotism towards America. The apple shaped flag was designed to represent the state of New York's courage and strength. By combining the United States flag with the apple design, I hoped to illustrate America's unity and compassion after the September 11th tragedy.
Hagan McGee
Louisville, Jefferson County

“Life Goes On #1” (Painting)
Acrylics

This painting honors farmers, the backbone of our food needs. They are still hard at work in the fields, getting in the harvests. They are doing as President Bush said, going on with their life.
I have always been very proud to be an American, and when I saw the second plane fly into the twin towers, overwhelming grief hit me. I had such fear that my children and grandchildren would not be able to enjoy the freedom of the USA in the coming years as I have in the past.
Bill Brown  
Mt. Sterling, Montgomery County  

"Rising Above The Rubble" (Painted Found Object)  
Acrylic on creek stone  

This stone once lay along a peaceful creek bank. The images it now bears are of majestic skyscrapers with their sister stones lying in rubble at their feet. Rising about the devastation, the smoke and the flame is an American. His race and origins are not important so I painted his face vague. What is important is that he is there — facing what must be done. Above the fireman is his flag. His symbol of "We the people," not just of New York or Pennsylvania or Washington D.C. — but the symbol of all of us — united. The flag is signed on the edge, but is still clear and rising above the destruction.
Tim Lewis  
*Isonville, Elliott County*

"Angel of Disasters" (Sculpture)  
Kentucky Blue Sandstone

Whenever there is a disaster (man-made or natural) the first thought people have is of fire and rescue departments. When the sirens are heard, you know that help is there. Sometimes their jobs are very dangerous, but with little thought of themselves they do their best. I am sure they have been called a lot of names (hero, etc.). Here is mine – Angel of Disasters.
I am deeply indebted to all the folk artists in Kentucky who responded to my invitation to participate in this exhibit. Their compelling pieces have captured so many of the emotions we are feeling at this moment in our nation's history. Their folk art pieces are national treasures that will touch the hearts of many people as they travel around the country and, hopefully, around the world.

I am honored to have partnered with these folk artists in such an historic project, and I am grateful to the people who helped make it happen: to my dear friends, Carol and Bill Butler, who once again believed in my vision and helped me create this project and publish this beautiful catalog; to Fran Redmon at the Kentucky Craft Marketing Program, Garry Barker and Adrian Swain at the Kentucky Folk Art Center, and all my friends at the Kentucky Art and Craft Foundation, for being supportive partners in the creation and coordination of this exhibit; to Christy and Owsley Brown and Lois Mateus at Brown-Forman, for providing Woodford Reserve's generous sponsorship of the exhibit; to Mary and Al Shands, Mary Lee and George Fischer, Ann and Darrell Wells, Lindy Richardson and Bill Street, Donna and John Hall, Laura Lee Brown and Steve Wilson, Marlene and David Grissom, Barbara Nichols, and Lulu Lenihan Davis, all dear friends and longtime supporters of the Kentucky craft movement, for their generous personal sponsorship of the exhibit; to Geoff Carr, for creating such beautiful photographs of the pieces so we could create this keepsake catalog; to my invaluable personal assistant, Dee Emmerson, who has supported me and helped me with all my projects for over twenty years now; and last but not least, to my beautiful children - Lincoln and Pamela - who grew up surrounded with Kentucky crafts, and understand perhaps better than anyone my passion for these pieces and the unforgettable people who make them. Thanks, everyone!

- Phyllis

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