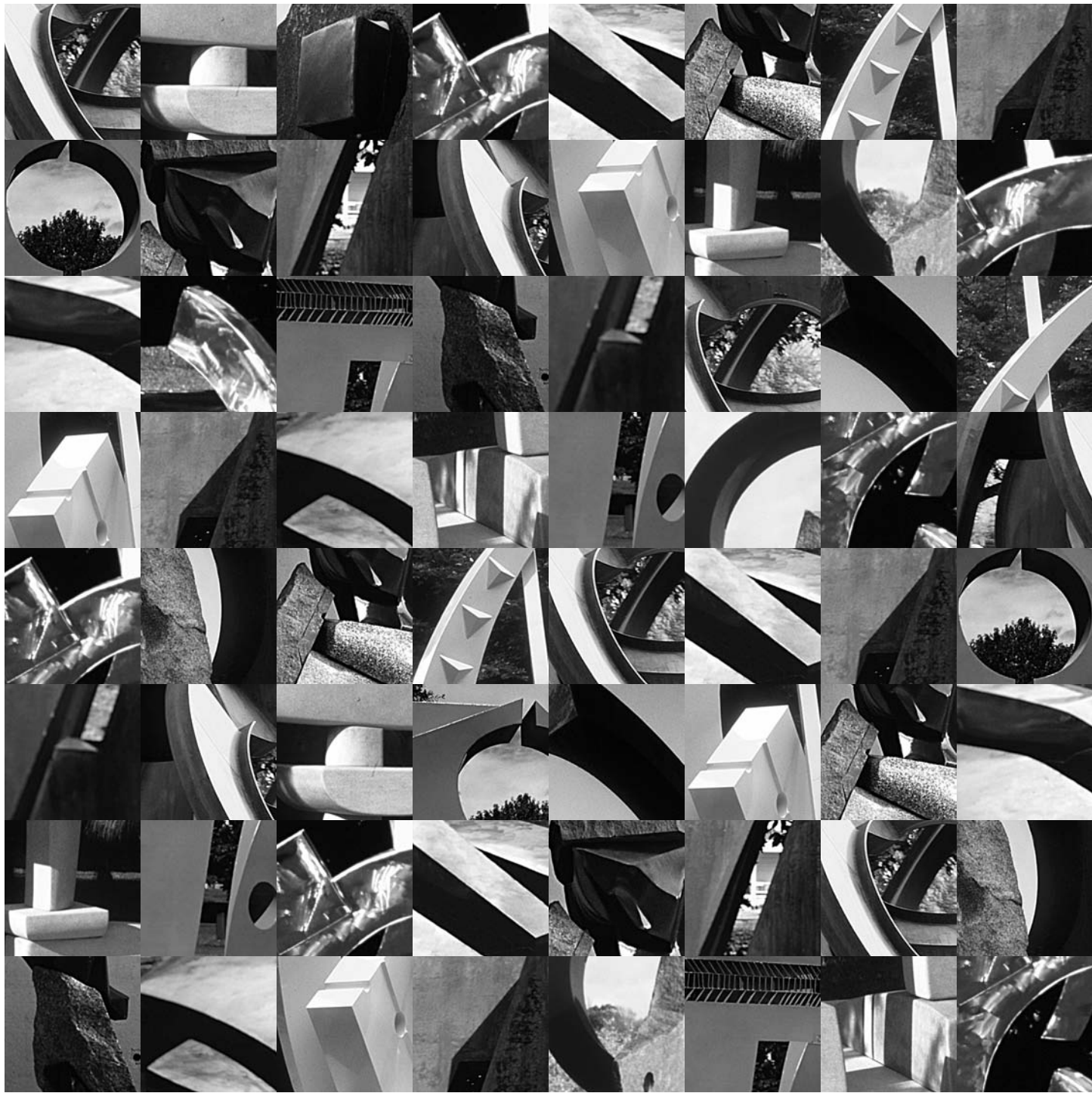
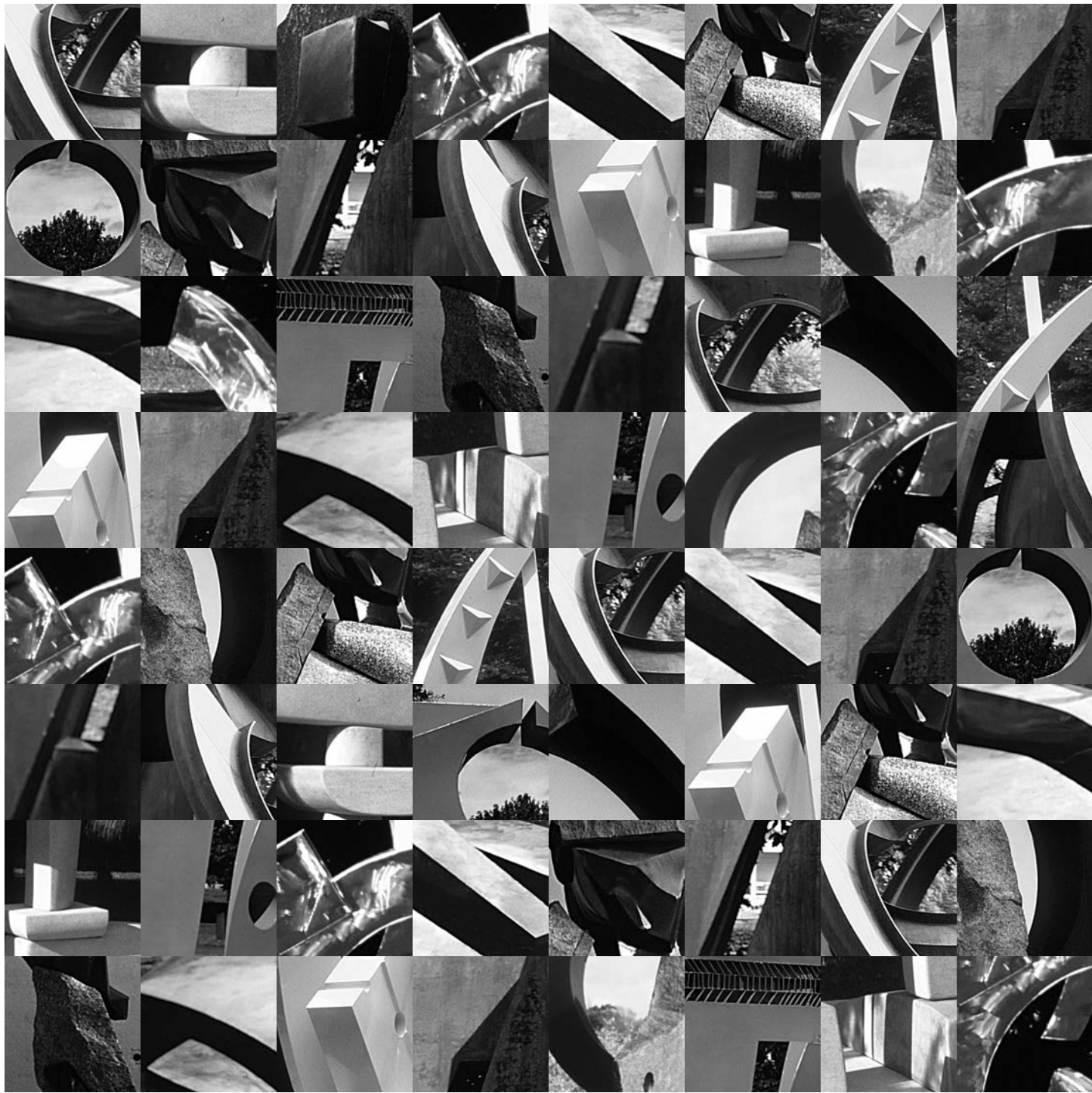
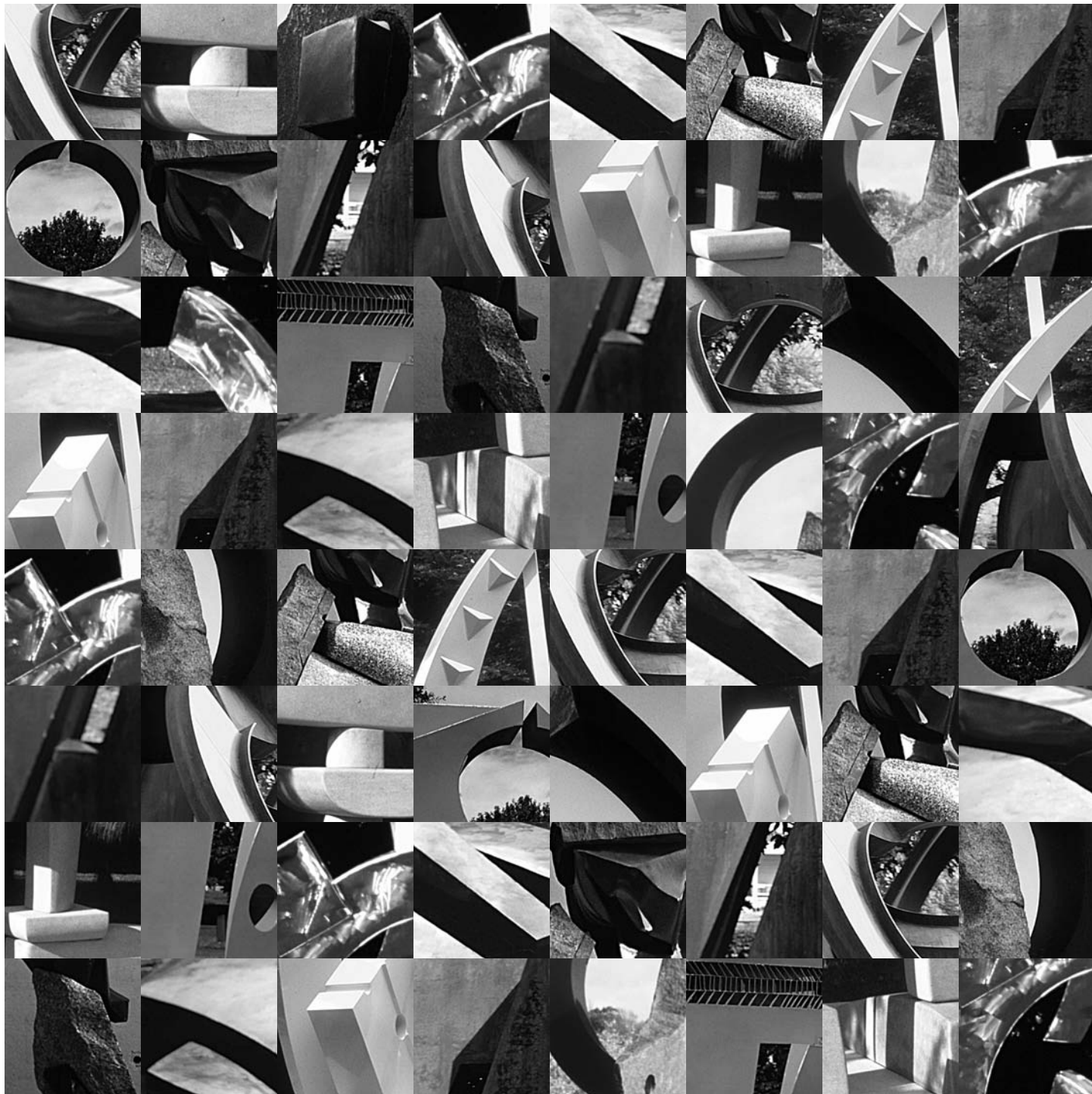




JUST

JUST





Jackson, TN/Union University Sculpture Tour
Outdoor Sculpture Competition and Exhibition 2006-2007

Five years ago in January, our city was rocked to the foundations by severe tornadoes that swept through the city and county on a Sunday night, leaving six people dead and millions of dollars in property damage. When people first began to realize what had happened, it was almost more than the human mind could process. It was staggering. It was overwhelming.

Within minutes, however, we rallied collectively as the family we sometimes forget we are. Even before the storm sirens had stopped wailing, people were climbing over rubble and wading through mud to rescue victims. Firefighters and police officers went into the unstable remains buildings where electric and gas lines were ruptured, with no thought of their own safety.

By morning, telephones were ringing nonstop with calls from people throughout the city and county, and from neighboring communities and even bordering states, asking how they could help. Out of this unimaginable tragedy was emerging something astounding in its beauty – a groundswell of compassion and eagerness to do something for total strangers. It grew and grew and did not wane until extra hands no longer were needed.

In the months that followed, two Union University art professors conceived the idea of a magnificent masonry sculpture that would forever stand as a monument to that outpouring of assistance and emotional support that helped so many through the recovery process. Ideas were finalized, funds were raised, and today the sculpture, titled Beth-El, stands as the centerpiece of a small tract of land that bears the name Unity Park. Elements of the sculpture memorialize the storm victims, but he overall structure is a beautiful reminder that when the worst happens, we stand together in the best way.

Now we have the exciting prospect of a competitive sculpture tour that will bring the work of sculptors nationwide to Jackson. Each year for five years, outdoor sculptures will be displayed in Jackson and one will be selected for the purchase prize, which means it will remain permanently on display. At the end of the five-year period, five new permanent sculptures will be on display in the downtown area.

Beth-El is a beautiful memorial but it also is beautiful as art for art's sake. Perhaps as the beginning of a new phase in our commitment to enhancing our city's quality of life, it becomes even more of a treasure.

Mayor Charles Farmer
City of Jackson, TN

Union University is pleased to once again participate in sponsoring the Outdoor Sculpture Competition and Exhibition 2006-07. At Union University, we regard the arts as an important aspect of our society. We have all been given creative abilities, but some have special gifts and talents that enable them to communicate in a dynamic and powerful way. Union University is thankful to be a part of a community such as Jackson that values the contribution of the arts.

The community-at-large benefits from this competition in direct and indirect ways. It benefits directly, of course, by the new sculpture that is added to our city. It benefits indirectly by the growing appreciation and awareness for the artists in our area and the creative work they produce.

Art is for everyone and outdoor exhibitions such as this invite all members of our community to enjoy and experience these wonderful contributions. As Jackson continues to grow and prosper, Union University is delighted to be a partner in a city that thrives on cooperation. This sculpture project has been a welcomed addition to our community and our region.

Dr. David Dockery
Union University President

It is with great pleasure that I acknowledge and applaud the existence of a thriving learning community in West Tennessee! Not limited to the confines of the university campus, a learning community exists wherever citizens seek opportunities to engage in meaningful conversations about what constitutes truth and what constitutes reality. Art—the representation of truth and reality as perceived by the artist—is certainly a catalyst for dialogue and a venue for the healthy exchange of ideas. For the City of Jackson, Tennessee, to partner with Union University in the sponsorship of an annual outdoor sculpture competition and tour is indeed a stellar example of what a learning community can and should be. This exhibit will afford the residents of West Tennessee with a unique opportunity to contemplate the works of five nationally recognized artists whose sculptures might otherwise only be accessible by traveling to larger metropolitan areas.

I extend congratulations and appreciation to Mayor Charles Farmer and to Professor Aaron Lee Benson for casting the vision and expending the energy to make this competition and tour a reality. What a privilege it is to reside with you in learning Community of Jackson, Tennessee.

Barbara McMillin
Associate Provost and Dean of Instruction
Union University

In recent years contemporary public art has lent an air of sophistication, energy, and vision to the recovery and revitalization of downtown Jackson, Tennessee. I was honored to be invited to serve as guest juror for the 2006-2007 Jackson/Union Sculpture Tour. It was a fascinating process as the panel viewed slides of submitted works, discussed each one, and gradually reached a consensus.

This year's submissions represented a broad spectrum of artists from across the nation. Included were works by sculptors ranging in age and experience from twenty-something graduate students to seasoned professionals. Whether created from clay, metal, stone, or wood; painted, patina'd, or left natural; modest in scale or soaring skyward – all the works were given due consideration. The pieces selected for exhibition represent a high degree of continuity in style and scale from past years' acceptances. The 2006-2007 tour, however, will include some excitingly different approaches to art-making that are certain to draw attention and evoke comment.

Aaron Lee Benson, Professor of Fine Arts in Sculpture and Ceramics at Union University, is to be particularly commended for serving as the creator, counselor, and guiding force of the Jackson/Union Sculpture Tour. I am humbled and gratified to have played a small part in this year's competition.

Bill Hickerson, Curator
West Tennessee Regional Art Center

As Jackson has grown into a major metropolitan center in West Tennessee it is essential for it to establish itself as an urgent art center as well. One way to accomplish this is to introduce, maintain and promote a sculpture tour. Populations have always established the arts as a fundamental way to promote their communities and culture, and sculpture has always been the venue of choice. When communities want to celebrate, commemorate, honor, observe or consecrate something about themselves, they choose sculpture as the way to do it. This is the major purpose of this tour: to promote the City of Jackson and to encourage our citizens in the participation and enjoyment of the visual arts.

Over the last four years the tour has created an overall aesthetic appeal in the downtown Jackson area. With the annual installation of sculpture each fall, we have encouraged an eager audience to anticipate, experience, and enjoy the surrounding visual environment. This community effort has also been greatly aided and supported by Union University as it continues to seek venues in which the University can partner with the City of Jackson in developing a stronger and more vibrant community.

There are three individuals that deserve acknowledgement for their visionary character and for their invaluable role in bringing this tour to the community. They are Mayor Charles Farmer, Union University President Dr. David Dockery and Union University Dean of Arts and Sciences Dr. Barbara McMillin. Without their support this tour would not exist.

Sincerely,

Aaron Lee Benson
Sculpture Tour Director

Allison D. Steele
Assistant Director

Erin Laverty and Marcus Boehler
Design & Development

Ruthann Pike
Campus Liaison



“Doppleganger”

5' x 5' x 8' – steel

“My current work is equally divided between large scale fabricated metal sculptures for public sites and smaller scale cast metal sculptures for more intimate spaces. All of my work is abstract, although the inspiration or reference for the work might be the human form, architecture, landscape or pure geometry. I use materials as directly as possible and am interested in the inherent qualities of the materials showing in the final work. I am deeply involved in making the work and like to allow the different processes of creating the sculpture to be seen in the work. Metal casting, direct carving in stone, welding steel, all have a nature of action which must be respected. I work within that realm of the physical because I am fundamentally a maker of objects. The sculptures that result from this action usually have a certain ambiguity or contradiction of meaning/ form. References, metaphors, associations and echoes of things seen are all within the work, awaiting discovery by the viewer.”

– Carl Billingsley



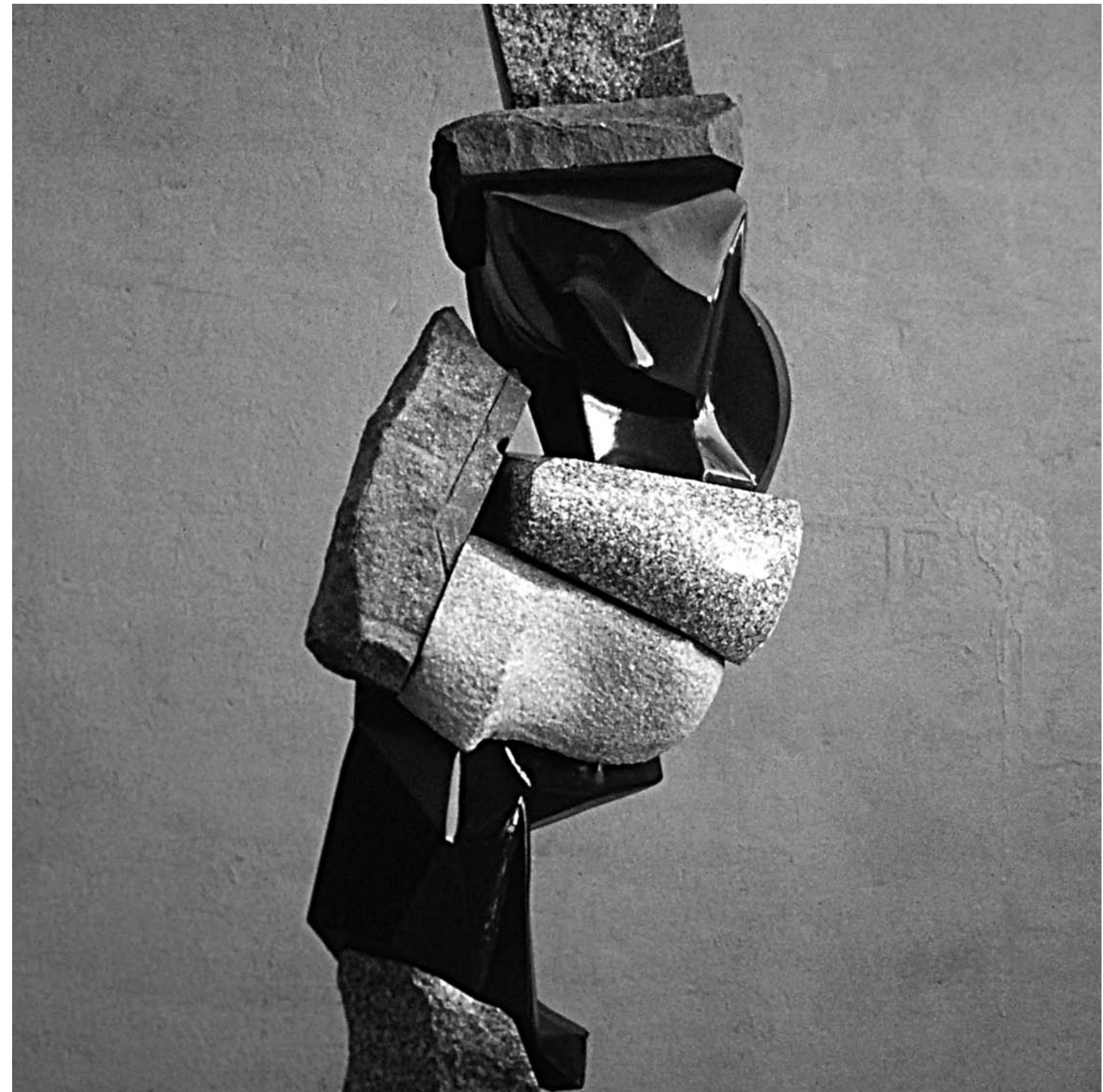
“Blinders”

85” x 33” x 20” – granite and steel

Each person’s “self” is constructed from experiences mundane and extraordinary. Each experience is a collection of moments, each moment shaped and contextualized by the identity of the individual, affected by its past and affecting the next moment in time. Every event impacts each person differently and thereby influences the ways in which we relate to one another, at times forming bonds, at times pushing apart. This work focuses on the ideas, issues, or experiences that set individuals apart from one another. There can be a certain peace to voluntary physical separation, an opportunity to be free from others’ expectations and reactions. On the other hand, to be surrounded by other people yet unable (or unwilling) to connect, communicate, or commune brings us to the depth of solitude. As a group these pieces reflect

the isolation of the individual, they move without reaching, are in proximity without touching, and respond without connecting. With allusions to body language and architecture these works capture various moments of identity, formed by history and experience, determining response and interaction. They represent the individual struggle to make sense of the relationship between internal and external aspects of identity, as the particular experiences, issues, or feelings that inform each piece dictate its relationship to the space, the viewer, and each other.

– Brett Hunter





“Autumnal Equinox”

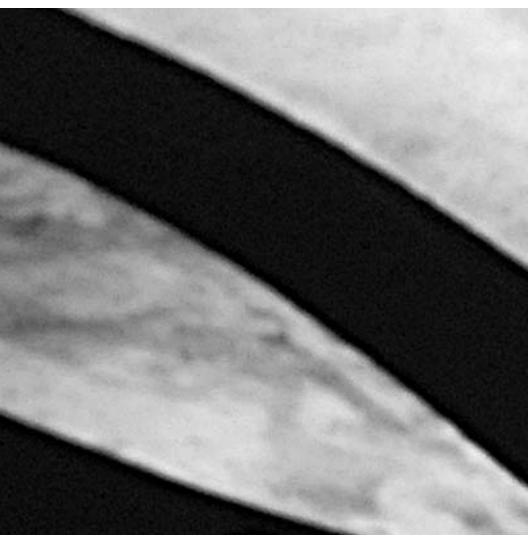
14' x 7' x 4' – steel and paint

“Hanna’s work addresses the concepts of time, movement, balance, and space. Each sculpture occupies and creates its own reality influenced by immediate surroundings. The work does not rely on one media to evoke the intended response, but takes advantage of compatible materials such as wood, granite, steel, stainless steel, iron and bronze.

If a goal is sought either consciously or unconsciously in the form of a work of art, one must solve innumerable problems and make innumerable decisions in order to achieve that end. One of the many decisions I have made is maintaining and preserving the natural quality of materials in my work”

– Hanna Jubran





“Gradual Beginnings”

36” x 72” x 84” – painted steel

“My work is inspired by sea creature, seed pods, and bugs. Initially, I am captivated by the various types of forms found in this world that are similar but completely or becoming part of an imaginary world; in essence, it takes me back to a kid-like interest in life and play.”

– Stephanie Sailer



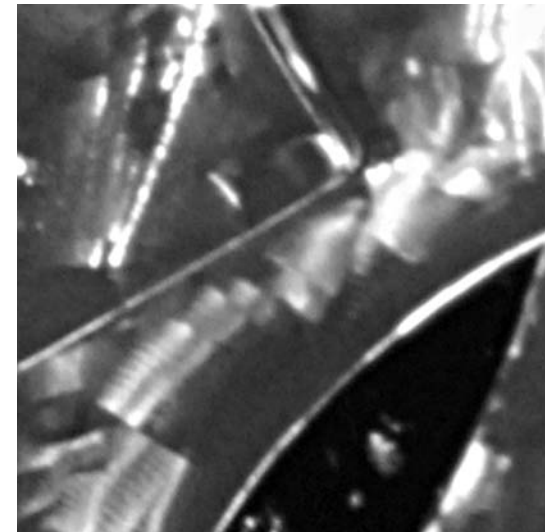


“Up and Over”

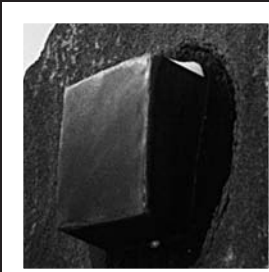
5' x 4" x 14' – stainless steel

“For me, my art is a combination of things-two of which stand out. First, I’ve always believed it necessary to have dreams, at times bigger than life, then to make those dreams become a reality (many of my large corporate sculptures are examples). To look at raw marble, or a sheet of steel and dream of what it could be, then to transform it from a dream to a tangible form, this is what I live for. Secondly, to always remain curious and surprised by all things and thoughts.

This very curiosity propels me to invent, to make, to do and to create my art. There is a joy of innocent wonder that children possess which sadly enough we tend to lose, as we grow older. Why? How? And Wow! We tend to shred our dreams and have preconceived notions we learn and we accept as adults. I try to look at the light, colors and the shapes of the world around me and turn this into art. I believe it is important to have abstract sculpture as a part of a growing community. Children especially, as well as adults would be influenced in ways we may never know.”



– Wayne Trapp

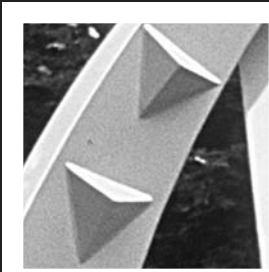


1
2003-2004
Purchase Award Winner

“Earthen Passage”

11’ x 4’8” x 3’ – metal and stone

Glenn Zweggardt

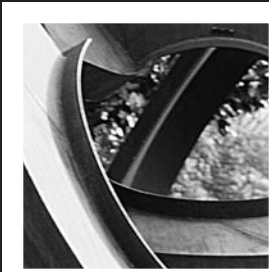


2
2004-2005
Purchase Award Winner

“Reaching for the Sun”

16’ x 4’ x 4’ – powder coated steel

Wayne Trapp

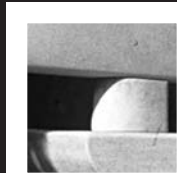


3
2005-2006
Purchase Award Winner

Untitled #2

128” x 81” x 80” – steel

James Davis



4
“Gethsemane”
2003-2004 Sculpture

7’3” x 8’ x 7’3” – stone

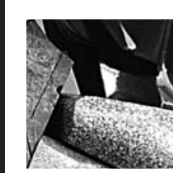
Shawn Morin



A
“Doppleganger”

5’ x 5’ x 8’ – steel

Carl Billingsley



B
“Blinders”

85” x 33” x 20” – granite and steel

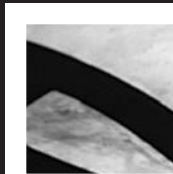
Brett Hunter



C
“Autumnal Equinox”

14’ x 7’ x 4’ – steel and paint

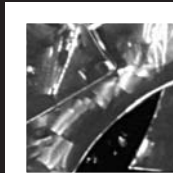
Hanna Jubran



D
“Gradual Beginnings”

5’ x 4” x 14’ – stainless steel

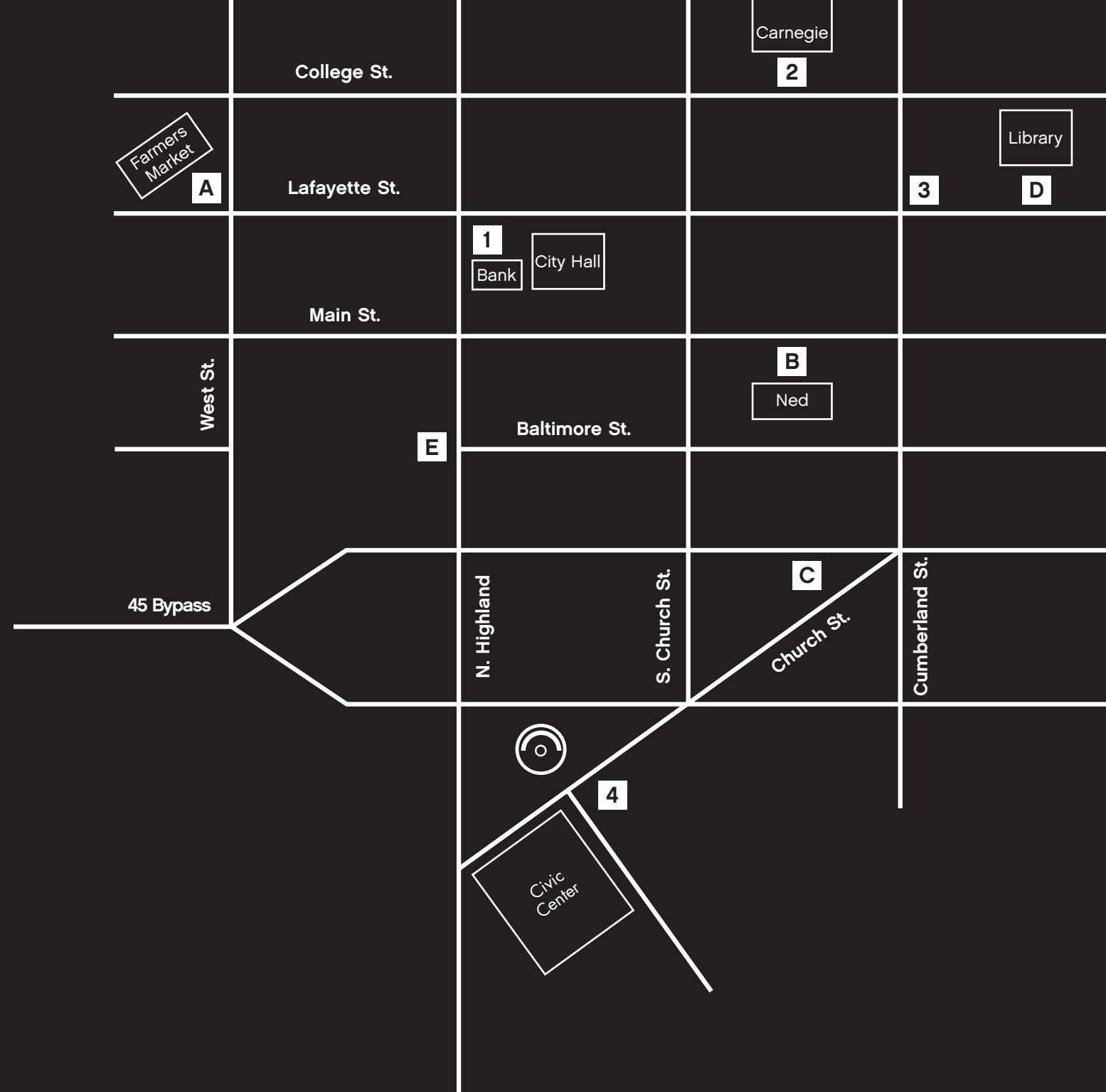
Stephanie Sailer



E
“Up and Over”

5’ x 5’ x 8’ – steel

Wayne Trapp





Jackson, TN/Union University Sculpture Tour

A joint project of the City of Jackson, TN and Union University
September 2005 - August 2006

UNION UNIVERSITY

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