

## LETTER OF INTEREST

January 25, 2024

Dear Ms. Mahungu and members of the Sebastopol Public Arts Committee,

We wish to submit our interest in the Sebastopol South Entrance Public Art Project. We propose installation of an original work by the late, local sculptor Bruce Johnson (our father). The piece, titled *Koan*, will welcome newcomers and residents alike to this vibrant hub of nature and culture.

Bruce lived and worked in Sonoma County for fifty years making abstract contemporary sculpture, before his life was cut short by a studio accident last March. His work is large-scale, dynamic, organic and enduring. His medium was massive, salvaged old-growth redwood, often clad or accented with copper. "I am moved," he wrote, "by the mass and scale of primal salvaged stumps and root wads. My tools are chainsaw, crane and boom truck, along with a great variety of hand tools. I have learned to collaborate with wood to reveal its muscular gestures, and I use my tools to leave textures that enliven the surface. I often clad large outdoor pieces with copper, to protect the wood from the elements while still honoring its organic form." He had a sculptor's dedication to form, and a craftsman's respect for materials.

Bruce was born in Portland, Oregon and spent summers on the Puget Sound making structures and sculptures from driftwood and stone. He studied art at UC Davis in the sixties, propelled by the radical faculty of that time. After graduating he worked building sculptural handmade houses, then moved to the Sonoma Coast to work on the historic restoration of the 19th-century Russian chapel at Fort Ross ('Metini' to the Kashaya Pomo, the Indigenous inhabitants of that place). On a nearby ridge he established a studio and started a family, and worked relentlessly making large-scale abstract sculpture for nearly five more decades.

Bruce's work can be found in public spaces and private collections, parks, museums, galleries and campuses all over Sonoma County, the US and internationally (including Spain, Italy, Taiwan, Suriname, and multiple US states). He was deeply inspired by Japanese art and architecture and traveled to Japan multiple times.

Here on California's edge of the Pacific Rim, Bruce collaborated frequently with architects, landscape architects, engineers and other artists on built projects and installations. Recent exhibitions/acquisitions of his work include a show of large-scale sculpture at Glen Ellen's Sonoma (formerly Quarryhill) Botanical Gardens; multiple shows and a new acquisition at Paradise Ridge Winery; a massive exhibition of large works at the Luther Burbank Center for the Arts called 'ROOT 101', (partially destroyed by the Tubbs Fire); and the recent posthumous installation of the 'Bell of Great Peace', a collaboration with late architect Ittsei Nakagawa at the Asian Art Museum's Peterson Garden, among many others.

While he never tired of being "out in the shop," Bruce was many things besides an artist – a runner and later cyclist, volunteer firefighter, peace activist, mentor, student of Zen Buddhism, beloved to his family and friends, and keen advocate for working artists. He was passionate about the importance of supporting the artists who bring meaning to our world, and of placing art in public spaces, for access by all.

Like much of Bruce Johnson's sculpture, *Koan* brings new life to ancient remains. With bold vitality and organic touchability, it will respond to the people of Sebastopol – engaging us with the present, connecting us to our natural, local and global communities, and bringing hope for a resilient future. Thank you for your consideration of this piece.

Sincerely,

Tori Johnson and Kendra Johnson

**BRUCE JOHNSON - SCULPTOR**  
**Sebastopol South Entrance Public Art Project Proposal**

## ART DESCRIPTION / DEPICTION

Our proposal is to install an existing piece by Bruce Johnson, a sculpture he called *Koan*. It is made primarily of old-growth redwood salvaged from the northern California coast. This material is astoundingly durable, increasingly rare, and an important part of Sonoma County's natural history. Its copper cladding enhances the piece while improving its ability to weather the wear of time.

Bruce described *Koan* as "a paradox to be meditated upon... Abandon reason; find sudden intuitive insight." The scale and texture of old-growth redwood speak of our place; its mass and form command attention and invite touch; and its gesture holds the tension of riddle – a 'yes-but-also...' that feels fitting for our time. It evokes East meeting West, peace even amidst conflict, and ancient forests ravaged, regenerating, someday restored to old-growth again.

Created in 2009, *Koan* has been shown at multiple venues (Paradise Wood Sculpture Garden, Quarryhill/ Sonoma Botanical Garden, Luther Burbank Center for the Arts, and Westside Road's 'Big Turnout').

The scale of the sculpture is larger-than-life, yet approachable. It welcomes interaction from passers-by. Installed on a steel base and further lifted on a concrete plinth, the piece will be visible from the roadway and approachable from the bike path. Its massive base allows for easy mowing and maintenance of a groundcover of wild grasses. Its durable gracefulness, its maker's story, and its ecological relevance make it an excellent choice for this site.





ART DESCRIPTION / DEPICTION

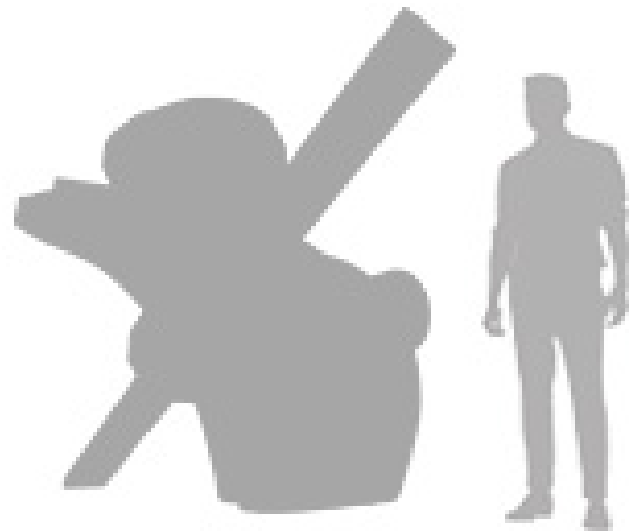


**Koan**

Materials: Redwood, copper, steel base, concrete plinth

Dimensions: 7' h x 7' w x 5' d

Dimensions with steel base and concrete plinth: 9'h x 7'w x 6'd



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## INSTALLATION TIMELINE & BUDGET

### Installation Timeline

The sculpture proposed is complete and being exhibited nearby. It will require less than two weeks' time to re-touch and refinish, move and install the piece at the designated site.

We, Bruce's daughters, along with his skilled assistant and others, have moved several large pieces since his death – with his boom truck and/or crane rental. With the professional services of Two Crows General Contractors, the installation of Koan is well within our capacity.

*Estimated time required for each step to complete installation:*

Re-touching and refinishing - 1 week

Site preparation - 1 week

Loading, transport from Westside Road, and offloading at site - half a day

Installation and final site work - 1-3 days

### Budget

Artist Fees - **\$20,000** (reflects a discount of \$7,000 off sculptor's price list and includes re-finishing)

Design fees - **N/A**

Structural Engineering - **N/A**

Materials, Equipment, and Production costs - **Reflected in Artist Fees**

Studio Fees - **N/A**

Rental if unique space needed for this project - **N/A**

Utilities (gas, water, electricity), if not included in rental - **N/A**

Transportation of finished artwork to site in Sebastopol - **\$1,000**

Installation costs, including any equipment rental - **\$2,150**

Lighting costs - **N/A**

Insurance - **Carried by General Contractor as Part of Installation Fees**

Taxes - **\$1,850** - (9.25% Sebastopol Sales Tax on \$20,000 purchase price)

Documentation - **N/A**

## PROFESSIONAL RESUME - JOHNSON, BRUCE

### SELECTED COMMISSIONS & MAJOR ACQUISITIONS

- 2023 Paradise Ridge Winery, Santa Rosa, CA – *Void*
- 2022 Green Music Center, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA – *Understanding Matter* (gift from estate of Donald and Maureen Green)
- 2018 Luther Burbank Center for the Arts, Santa Rosa, CA – *Kali*
- 2017 Castle Rock State Park Visitor Center, Los Gatos, CA – *Big Climb*
- 2017 Children's Museum of Sonoma County, Santa Rosa, CA – *Megaflora*
- 2016 Luther Burbank Center for Arts, Santa Rosa, CA – *Five Elements* (destroyed by fire)
- 2014 City of Shoreline, WA – *Lantern*
- 2013 Kruckeberg Botanical Garden, Shoreline, WA – *Wood Wave*
- 2013 Club Graton, Graton, CA – *Bell Tower*
- 2012 Green Music Center, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA – *Asia*
- 2007 Conservation International, SURINAME – *Bird Watch Totem*
- 2006 Alta Bates Hospital, Berkeley, CA – *Elemental Bench*
- 2006 Santa Rosa Junior College, Santa Rosa, CA – *Indigenous Oak*
- 2005 Sonoma County Museum, Santa Rosa, CA – *Sequoia*
- 2004 California Shakespeare Festival, Orinda, CA – *North Star*
- 2004 Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA – *Moon Gate*
- 2002 Vineyard Creek Inn / Conference Center, Santa Rosa, CA – *I Ching*
- 2001 Mount Vernon Public Schools, Mount Vernon, IL – *Sunstar Marker*
- 2000 Barclay and Sharon Simpson, Umbria, ITALY – *Woodhenge*
- 1999 Amundson Sculpture Garden, Seattle, WA – *Sierra*
- 1998 Rajah Construction, Keelung, TAIWAN – *Family, Knight, Boku*
- 1998 Edificio Mayola, Algerciras, SPAIN – *Maya*
- 1998 Paradise Ridge Winery, Santa Rosa, CA – *Fountain*
- 1997 Rajah Construction, Keelung, TAIWAN – *Gate of Spirit*
- 1996 Cedarhurst Sculpture Park, Mt. Vernon, IL – *Big Bang*
- 1994 Downer Residence- Martinez, CA – garden, gate, door, lantern
- 1994 Farm Camp, Plantation, CA – *Osprey House sculptural pavilion*
- 1990 Oakland City Center, Oakland, CA – *Solstice*
- 1989 Runnymead Sculpture Farm, Woodside, CA – *Log Jam*
- 1989 City of Walnut Creek, CA, 75th anniversary purchase – *Strata*
- 1987 Borel Financial Center, San Mateo, CA – *Seventeen Stones*
- 1986 Runnymead Sculpture Farm, Woodside, CA – *Marker*
- 1984 Djerassi Foundation, Woodside, CA – *Torii*
- 1983 Oakland Museum Sculpture Park, Oakland CA – *Red Bluff*
- 1982 City of Palo Alto, Mitchell Park, Palo Alto, CA – *After the Fire*
- 1982 State of California, Art in Public Places, Sacramento, CA – *Boulder*
- 1981 State of Alaska, Anchorage, AK – *Wind Prop*

### SELECTED EXHIBITIONS (\*solo exhibitions)

- 2022 Westside Road, Healdsburg – 'Big Turnout' \*
- 2015-18 Luther Burbank Center for the Arts, Santa Rosa, CA – 'Root 101' \*
- 2014-15 Quarryhill Botanical Garden, Glen Ellen, CA – 'Nature, Art, Man' \*
- 2012-13 Voigt Family Sculpture Foundation, Geyserville, CA, – 'The Spirit of the Man'
- 2009-10 Paradise Wood Sculpture Grove, Santa Rosa, CA – 'Uprooted' \*
- 2009 The Ren Brown Collection, Bodega Bay, CA – 'Downsized' \*



2005-07 Paradise Wood Sculpture Grove – Poetry House \*

2000-02 Paradise Wood Sculpture Grove, Santa Rosa, CA – Old Growth, New Life' \*

1999 Navy Pier, Chicago, IL – 'Pier Walk'

1999 Rutherford Hill Winery, Napa Valley, CA \*

1997 Amundson Sculpture Garden, Seattle, WA \*

1993 Mitchell Museum Sculpture Park, Mt Vernon, IL

1992 Socrates Sculpture Park, Long Island City, NY

1990 Barclay Simpson Gallery, Lafayette, CA \*

1990 London Art Expo, London ENGLAND

1988 Nina Owen Ltd., Chicago IL

1988 Walnut Creek Civic Arts Gallery, Walnut Creek, CA \*

1984, '86, '88 Victor Fisher Galleries, Oakland, CA \*

1982 Palo Alto Cultural Arts, Palo Alto, CA \*

1981 Kaiser Headquarters, Oakland, CA \*

1979 Bank of America World Headquarters, San Francisco, CA \*

## **COLLABORATIONS & BUILT PROJECTS**

2023 Asian Art Museum Peterson Garden, San Francisco, CA – 'Great Peace Bell'  
w/ architect Ittsei Nakagawa

2017 Mark di Suvero Studio, Petaluma, CA – Log Cabin Project

2015 Green Gulch Farm, Muir Beach, CA – Sculptural gate

2014 Luther Burbank Center Sculpture Garden, Santa Rosa, CA – Program consultant to  
Anita Wiglesworth, LBC

2010-11 Tassajara Mountain Zen Center, Carmel Valley, CA - Retreat Center construction

2010 Marcassin Winery, Windsor, CA – Redwood/copper door and Marquee

2007 Conservation International, Suriname – Eco-lodge timber stairs

2004 Asian Art Museum Peterson Garden, San Francisco, CA – Sculptural copper roof for  
Moon Gate, bronze/ stainless steel trellises w/ architect Ittsei Nakagawa

2002 Private Garden, Mill Valley, CA – Sculptural Entry Gate w/ Terra Design Group

2002 Paradise Ridge Winery, Santa Rosa, CA – Copper winery doors

1996-11 Paradise Wood Sculpture Grove, Santa Rosa, CA – Program consultant

1995 Hollywood Pictures – "Jack" Movie set design/build

1995 Amundson Sculpture Garden, Seattle, WA – Master plan w/ Landesign

1994 Downer Entry Garden, Martinez, CA – Master plan and construction w/ Landesign

1991 Barclay Simpson Gallery, Lafayette, CA – Copper door

1984-85 The Sea Ranch Chapel – Construction foreman for wood/ stone chapel designed by  
James Hubbell. AIA awards "Excellence in Craftsmanship," "Marriage of Art &Technology"

## **EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**

2010 Camino de Santiago, 500 mile walk across Spain

2009 Solo 4,000 mile transcontinental bicycle trip, Portland, Oregon to Portland Maine

2003-04 Museum of Contemporary Art at Luther Burbank Center, Santa Rosa, CA - Advis Board member

1990-94 Pacific Rim Sculptors Group - Charter member, first chairperson

1987-90 American School of Japanese Arts - Board of Directors

1987 Green Gulch Zen Center - Summer Japanese Arts Seminar

1983 Travel and language study in Japan. Visit Isamu Noguchi in Shikoku

1969 Bachelor of Arts, University of California, Davis

## PROFESSIONAL RESUME - PROJECT TEAM

### **Johnson, Tori**

Tori is a licensed landscape architect based in Sonoma County. Tori has worked on a variety of project types ranging from high end residential design to wineries, botanic gardens, and ecological restoration projects. In the past, Tori worked with Bruce in various capacities, including site design, sculpture placement, document preparation and building projects. She holds Bruce's energy and vision close to her heart, his inspiration as a guide and shares in his great satisfaction in seeing projects come to fruition.

### **Johnson, Kendra**

Kendra is a consulting professional focused on farmland tenure, stewardship and conservation. Experience includes businesses in farming and landscape maintenance and design; farm and wildland stewardship; farmland access, equity and affordability; farm business succession; and working lands conservation. While grieving the loss of her father, she is honored to see his legacy continue, and his sculpture continue to move people. Kendra lives with her family near the Russian River, in their beloved western Sonoma County.

### **Two Crows Ecological Design**

General Contractors #1054248

Sebastopol, CA

[info@twocrowsdesign.com](mailto:info@twocrowsdesign.com)

## IMAGES OF PAST WORK

### ***Outburst***

2009 – redwood, copper, steel base – (12' x 10' x 8')

#### Major Exhibitions:

Luther Burbank Center for the Arts, 'Root 101.' 2015-18

Tiburon Water Front. 2012

Paradise Wood Sculpture Grove, 'Uprooted.' 2009-10

Destroyed by fire, 2017



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## IMAGES OF PAST WORK

### ***Rock Slide***

2009 – redwood, copper, steel base – (8'x8'x8')

#### Major Exhibitions:

Luther Burbank Center for the Arts, 'Root 101.' 2015-18

Tiburon Water Front. 2012

Paradise Wood Sculpture Grove, 'Uprooted.' 2009-10

Direct Purchase, Private Residence. 2023

Purchase Price: \$35,000





## IMAGES OF PAST WORK

### ***Void***

2014 – redwood, copper, steel base – (8'x8'x7')

#### Major Exhibitions:

Luther Burbank Center for the Arts, 'Root 101.' 2015-18

Quarryhill Botanical Garden, 'Nature, Art, Man.' 2014-15

Paradise Wood Sculpture Grove, 'Uprooted.' 2009-10

#### Contact:

Walter Byck

Owner - Paradise Ridge Winery Sculpture Garden

(707) 490-6678



## IMAGES OF PAST WORK

### ***Kali***

2018 – redwood, copper – (8'x8'x13')

#### Major Exhibitions:

Luther Burbank Center for the Arts, direct purchase from artist. 2019

Purchase Price: \$50,000

#### Contact:

Anita Wiglesworth

Vice President of Programs & Marketing - Luther Burbank Center for the Arts

(707) 800-7500



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## IMAGES OF PAST WORK

### ***Offering***

2009 – redwood, copper – (14'x16'x16')

#### Major Exhibitions:

Town of Windsor, Roundabout Installation (on loan) 2015 - present

Quarryhill Botanical Garden, 'Nature, Art, Man.' 2014-15

Paradise Wood Sculpture Grove, 'Uprooted.' 2009-10

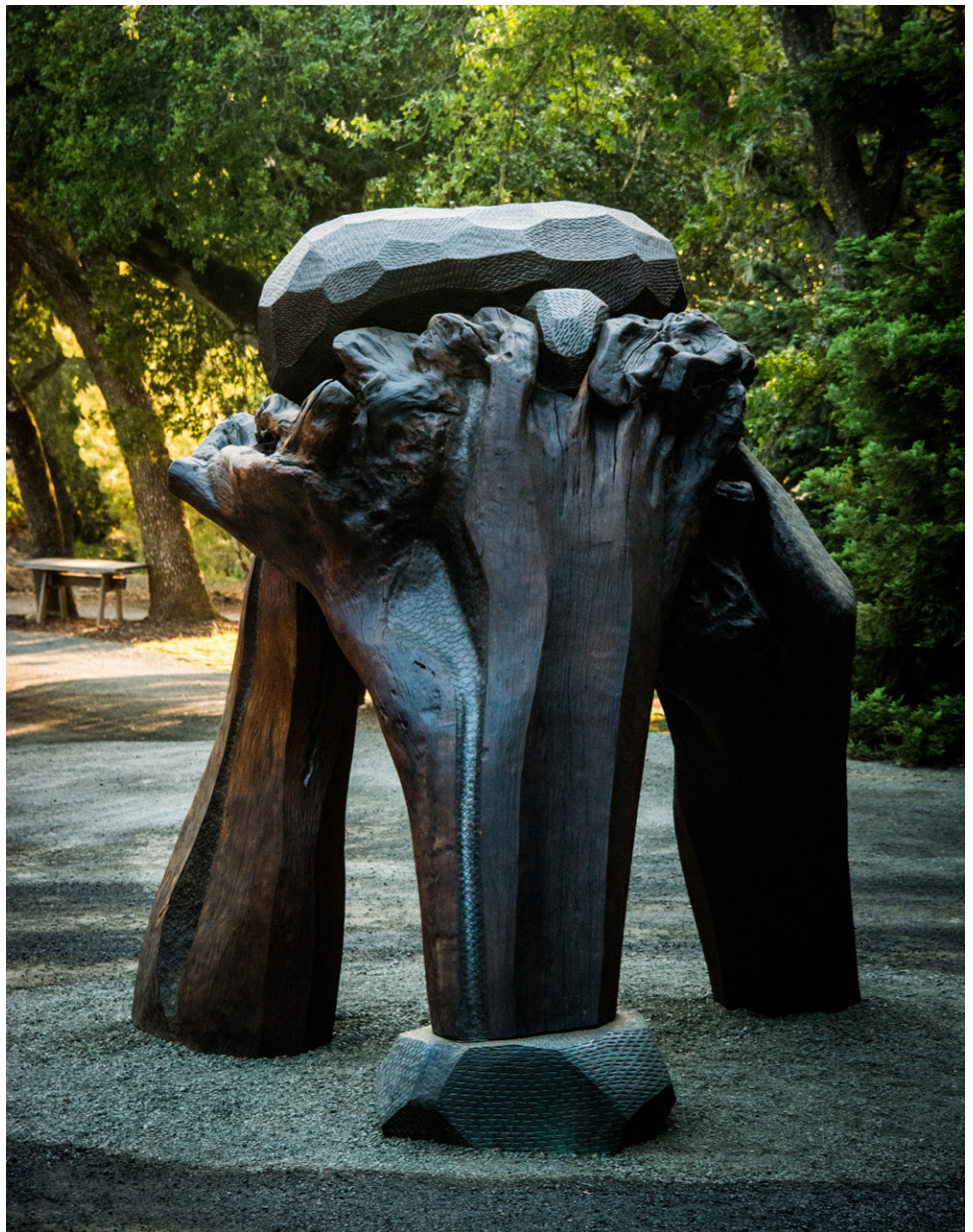
Artist Price: \$75,000

#### Contact:

Olivia Lemen

Parks and Recreation Director - Town of Windsor

(707) 838-5383



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## IMAGES OF PAST WORK

### ***Uprising***

2008 – redwood, copper - (14'x9'x5')

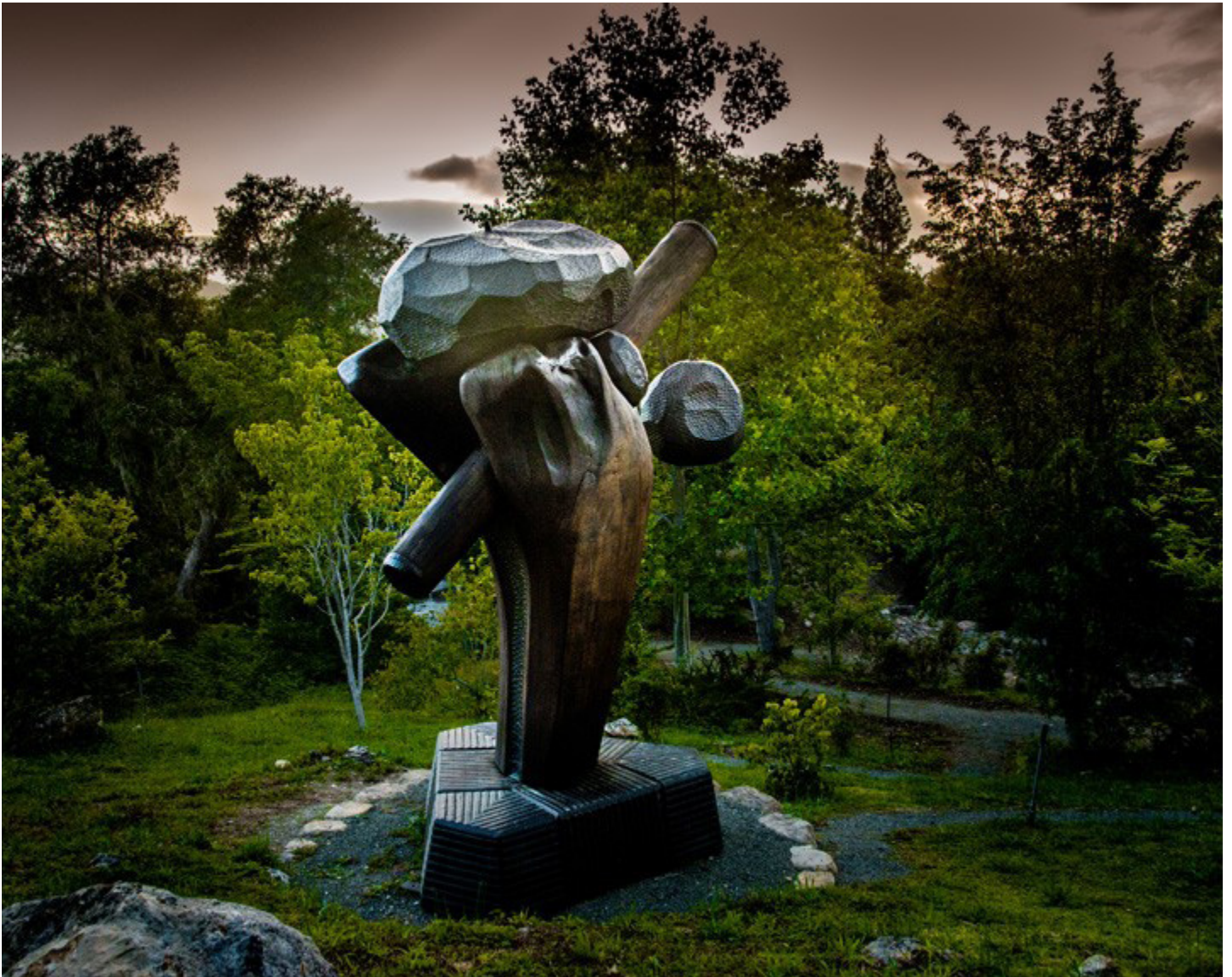
#### Major Exhibitions:

Luther Burbank Center for the Arts, 'Root 101.' 2015-18

Quarryhill Botanical Garden, 'Nature, Art, Man.' 2014-15

Paradise Wood Sculpture Grove, 'Uprooted.' 2009-10

Artist Price: \$68,000





## IMAGES OF PAST WORK

### ***Olas de Paz***

2006 – copper clad redwood - (8'x12'x6')

Major Exhibitions:

Luther Burbank Center for the Arts, 'Root 101.' 2015-18

Quarryhill Botanical Garden, 'Nature, Art, Man.' 2014-15

Artist Price: \$66,000



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## IMAGES OF PAST WORK

### ***Sequoia***

2000 – redwood – (5'x9'x12')

#### Major Exhibitions:

Museum of Sonoma County, Direct Purchase. 2005

Purchase Price: \$50,000

#### Contact:

Jeff Nathanson

Executive Director & Art Curator - Museum of Sonoma County

(707) 579-1500 x 102



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## IMAGES OF PAST WORK

### ***Solstice***

1988 – redwood, copper – (12'x8'x3')

Major Exhibitions:

Oakland City Center, Direct Purchase. 1988

Purchase Price: \$30,000



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## IMAGES OF PAST WORK

### ***Megaflora***

2017 - redwood - 8'x15'x15'

Children's Museum of Sonoma County, direct purchase from artist. 2017

Contact:

Collette Michaud

CEO and Founder - Children's Museum of Sonoma County

(707) 546-4069 x108



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