

June 30,2014

## City of North Charleston, SC, Announces Winners of “National Outdoor Sculpture Competition and Exhibition”



(Courtesy Photo by Charleston press.)

Sculpture artists from across the nation applied to the “9th Annual National Outdoor Sculpture Competition and Exhibition”, displayed at the picturesque North Charleston Riverfront Park and presented as a component of the 2014 North Charleston Arts Festival. Organized annually by the City of North Charleston Cultural Arts Department, this unique, eleven month exhibition offers established and emerging artists the opportunity to display their thought provoking, extraordinary sculptures, as well as compete for up to \$16,250 in honorariums and awards.

Eleven out of 75 submissions were pre-juried into the exhibition by the juror, Brad Thomas, Director of Residencies & Exhibitions at the McColl

Center in Charlotte, NC. Once installed at the exhibition site, Thomas then made his selections for Best in Show, Outstanding Merit, and Honorable Mentions.

“It is an honor to participate in this year’s ‘National Outdoor Sculpture Competition & Exhibition’ in North Charleston. The natural beauty of Riverfront Park offers the ideal setting for each of these remarkable sculptures.” Thomas stated. He continued, “I have long been a proponent of art outside the confines of museum and gallery walls. In recent years, I have participated in initiatives to acquire sculptures by world-renowned artists for college campuses in North Carolina and served as Chair of Charlotte’s Public Art Commission. Through these experiences, I have gained a deep appreciation for how these very public interventions of art activate natural and built environments, as well as our relationship to them. Furthermore, sculpture in public spaces can also serve to intrigue those who may be considered excluded from the world of art. By virtue of its placement, art in public spaces serves as ambassador, possessing the potential to break down perceived barriers of exclusivity and unlock a lifetime of creative thought and inquiry.”

The eleven sculptures selected for exhibition are by eleven artists from seven states. Congratulations to the winners of the “2014/15 National Outdoor Sculpture Competition & Exhibition”:

“Duet” (reclaimed steel) by Kevin Eichner – Hilton Head Island, SC (Outstanding Merit)

“Cloud Rain” (steel) by Jeffie Brewer – Nacogdoches, TX (Honorable Mention)

**“Slice of Heaven” (concrete & limestone) by Craig Gray – Key West, FL (Honorable Mention)**

“Summit” (granite, glass, stainless steel) by Antoinette Priene Schultze – Eliot, ME (Honorable Mention)

“PC Column” (powder coated steel) by Carl Billingsley – Ayden, NC

“Dancer” (stainless steel) by Bob Doster – Lancaster, SC  
“Tumbling Towards the Sun” (steel) by Gary Gresko – Oriental, NC

“Growth & Direction” (forged & fabricated steel/perforated steel) by Corrina Sephora Mensoff – Atlanta, GA

“ForeverSphere” (polyethylene) by Matthew Newman – Damascus, VA

“The Dance” (cor-ten steel) by Davis Whitfield, IV – Sylva, NC