

Alfred University faculty artists' work featured in exhibition

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Two of the five artists whose work is included in JUST - the Jackson, TN/Union University Sculpture Tour (JUST) - are faculty members in the School of Art & Design at Alfred University. "Earthen Passage" by Glenn Zwegardt, professor of sculpture, and "The Missing Piece" by Brett Hunter, assistant professor of sculpture, will remain on display in the city of Jackson, TN, through August 2004. JUST, jointly sponsored by the city of Jackson, TN, and Union University, is the city's way of celebrating its recovery from a number of devastating tornadoes that struck the area four years ago, leaving six people dead and causing several millions of dollars of property damage. As a monument to the community's recovery, two Union University art professors raised funds to install a sculpture, entitled "Beth -El" in Unity Park, and organized a competitive tour that each year for five years will bring the work of five sculptors from across the nation to the community for the exhibition. Each year, one of the pieces will be purchased and permanently installed in the park. "At the end of the five-year period, five new permanent sculpture will be on display in the downtown area," explained Mayor Charles Farmer. Zwegardt was this year's recipient of the purchase prize, meaning "Earthen Passage," an 11' x 4'8" x 3' sculpture that combines stone, metal and glass, will become part of the city's permanent collection. "The works of Glenn Zwegardt are simultaneously ancient and contemporary," explains the show catalog. "With his use of diverse materials - cast bronze, glass, iron, marble, stainless steel, stone and granite - he creates complex media sculptures that exemplify a master of the three-dimensional form. Zwegardt's mastery of the building process along with his ability to create enormous works of art from materials of tremendous mass have gained him international recognition. "Zwegardt received his BFA degree from Wichita State and his MFA from the Maryland Institute of Art. He has been a member of the faculty at AU's School of Art & Design for more than 30 years. Hunter, who joined the faculty last year, explains his "recent work focuses on the ideas, issues or experiences that set individuals apart from one another." "The Missing Piece" is from a body of work that "form(s) a collection of figures, each moving in reaction to its own particular state. As a group, these works represent the isolation of the individual - they move without reaching, are in proximity without touching and respond without connecting."