

Necklace by Pat Musick

Their gem of an enterprise, the Redmond/Bennett Gallery, is a clean, meticulously renovated mid-size industrial space with pristine white walls, precision crystal lighting and ample space for the showing of muscular contemporary works. They are resolute in their passion to bring new and exciting artists to their corner of New Hampshire.

This show focuses on two artists, painter Stephen Courbois and sculptress Pat Musick. Courbois has been admired and collected by the sisters for decades. They were introduced to his work while he was the featured artist-in-residence at the nearby Sharon Arts Center.

The paintings of Courbois are studies in textural geometry. His work is a patient scholarly investigation of variations on a simple geometric theme. Here is the work of quiet contemplative spheres in a visual balance that is motivated solely by surface texture and planes of color that are painted in the manner of woven cloth. This is not easily decipherable work.

Pat Musick, a fascinating woman with a formidable and confident vision, is a sculptress with a strong sense of the dynamic and mutable relationship of sculptural elements and the environment upon which they sit. She attempts to create a visual dialog between her raw natural sculptural elements. They speak to each other and converse with their environment.

Her work is defined more by the spatial relationship of her elements than their actual form. I detect the strong influence of Frank Lloyd Wright in the development of her aesthetic: Clean lines, natural elements in their raw state, and a love of tawny earthen color tones. Musick's works are deeply imbued with architectural sense. They are architectural projections, forms without function, structures that support ideas and relationships and nothing more.

In March 2002, Musick embarked on her most impressive project. She and her crew traversed the northern part of Arkansas, following the Cherokee Trail of Tears. In 23 different environmental settings along a portion of the Trail of Tears, Musick diligently set up her installation of "Stone Songs." Each location was chosen for its unique landscape and its historical significance. The ever-changing dimensions of "Stone Songs" were orchestrated on grassy pastures, lakesides, riversides and woodlands, against the walls of rocky hills and in the mud of forgotten roads.

The project is documented in "Stone Songs on the Trail of Tears, the Journey of an Installation" a 78 page book of full-scale photographs, maps, texts, reminiscences, fragments of history and text. More than the project, the book illustrates the philosophy and working methods of an extraordinary artist exploring the relationship of sculpture, spatial alignment and environment.

| Greg Morell

# Paintings: STEPHEN COURBOIS Sculpture: PAT MUSICK

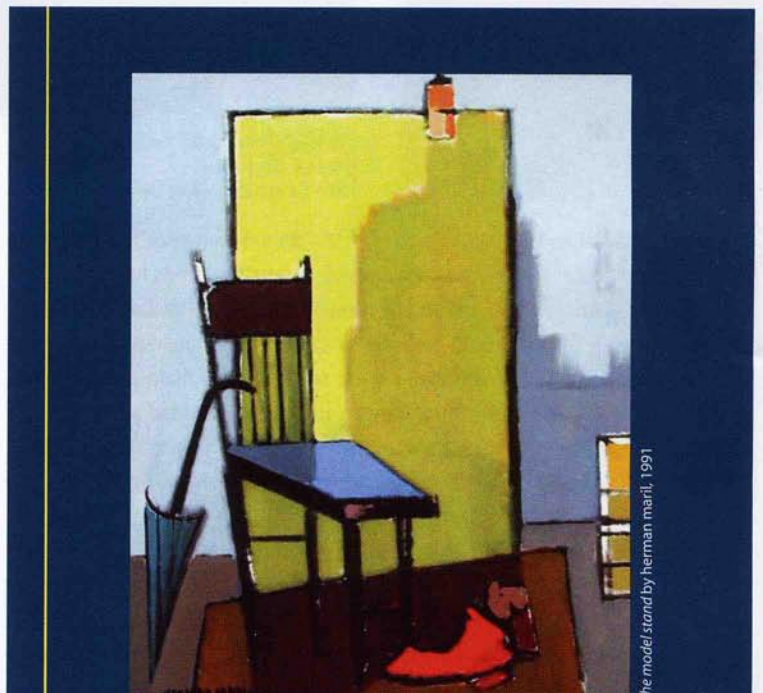
redmondbennettgallery

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June 31 through August 24

IMAGINE THE CHALLENGE OF RUNNING A COMMERCIAL ART GALLERY FEATURING THE WORK OF DIFFICULT AND ABSTRUSE CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS IN A MINISCULE TOWN IN A QUIET CORNER OF NEW HAMPSHIRE. TWO SISTERS, LAURA REDMOND AND BONNIE BENNETT, HAVE UNDERTAKEN SUCH A TASK IN THE SHADOW OF MOUNT MONADNOCK, IN THE TINY HAMLET OF DUBLIN.



the model stand by herman maril, 1991

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