

Artists' Statement/About Brad Oldham Sculpture



Christy Coltrin and Brad Oldham at *The Traveling Man-Waiting on a Train*

(n.) Sculptor:
a person who practices the art of sculpture.

For us, a sculptor is further defined by the other roles we play.

problem solver

Creating a sculpture is not a formulaic process. The journey often takes us down the winding, untraveled path. We tap into experience, grit, and determination as we tackle the challenges inherent in making sculpture.

composer

We embrace the writing behind the story-based sculpture, which provides the framework in which we combine our skills, materials, and processes. The experience of the finished sculpture composition must exceed the sum of its parts.

number cruncher

We find creativity within the context of a budget, timeline, and physicality of what is possible.

pushy confidence

We push to build better each time and have the confidence to create what is not there – because we can and it should be.

team captain

Creating sculpture is not a one-person job. We lead a team of artisans and craftsmen who support our work, and clients input is critical.

determined artist

A sculpture is 95% determination to realize our artistic vision. We don't give up. Can't stop, won't stop.

We uncover the essence of a place to find and create the story that guides us as we create site-specific sculpture.



Private Commission

With more than 15 years of experience in the fine-art arena, Brad Oldham Sculpture specializes in creating place-making sculptures, architectural features and artistic retail pieces. We believe that by using our creativity to build upon the uniqueness of each environment, we produce tangible experiences that allow viewers to hold stories in their hands and hearts that they will associate with a particular time and place.

our mission

We aim to demystify sculpture by increasing accessibility and providing opportunities for enjoyment of such artwork in everyday life. We strive to create emotional connections and experiences that expand and enrich people's lives in the tangible way that sculpture can.

our vision

Our vision is to bring sculpture directly to people – in their daily play, work, travel, and relaxation time – thereby encouraging personal engagement with this interactive art form.

our expertise

Site-Specific, Place-Making Sculpture

Sculpture & Custom Architectural Features

Limited-Edition Sculpture, Tabletop Sculpture & Gifts



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Site-Specific, Place-Making Sculpture

We are sculptors, artists, writers and designers rooted in storytelling, and we have a deep understanding of how major artwork is made, installed and maintained. There are few sculptors in the industry who have the breadth of experience that Brad Oldham and the BOS team bring to their clients. A sculpture may be realized in metals such as bronze, stainless steel, steel, or aluminum, or in wood, glass, concrete, stone, or any combination of these elements. Another facet of our design experience is the capability to provide functionality, such as lighting, wayfinding, and seating, along with such esoteric features as fire and water. We use the story and materials to articulate what is special and unique in a time and place for the community.



SkaterBIRD



Combination



Better to Give



Birth of a City



The Traveling Man-Walking Tall



Portfolio

Running with the Moon, San Antonio, Texas

medium: Stainless Steel, Steel, and Bronze

dimensions: 35' x 36' x 8'

year completed: 2018

description: *Running with the Moon* is an installation of a boy running along the river, pulling a crescent-shaped kite cantilevered over the water. The moon is lifted by the residents' good work and deeds, while the boy sculpture represents the future pushing forward. The two intertwined forces "propel" the moon above the water.

Viewers will see that the 16-foot-diameter kite is elevated 19 feet off the ground and is comprised of 508 handmade butterflies. The brush-finished butterflies are 20% mirror-polished to contrast with the bronze material in the boy sculpture and allowing them to dance in the natural and internal lights. At night, the moon glows as the light inside escapes under the butterfly wings.



Brooks Butterfly, San Antonio, Texas

medium: Stainless Steel

dimensions: Kaleidoscope of eight sculptures in three sizes: 3.5' x 5' x 6' (2 sculptures) | 2.5' x 4' x 3' (4 sculptures) | 1.75' x 3' x 2' (2 sculptures)

year completed: 2018

description: The butterflies have extended wings and dream of flight as their caterpillar body is still transforming to become a sleek flying shape. It is the moment before flight that is filled with the hopes and joy for what lies ahead that Brad Oldham and Christy Coltrin wanted to capture. The eight sculptures in three sizes are installed in clusters and alone throughout the linear park. Monarch butterflies migrate through this park every fall on their way to Mexico.



SkyLINK at the Greensboro Children's Museum, Greensboro, North Carolina

medium: Stainless Steel and Steel

dimensions: 19' x 84" x 48"

year completed: 2017

description: SkyLINK is a stainless steel sculpture featuring three links stacked one atop another to form a pathway to the skies above Greensboro. The winged *SpaceBIRD* sculptures work together to create this foundation to the sky. A fourth link is partially revealed near the installation to represent the emerging materials for learning and to recognize donors to this installation. The cooperation, imagination, and ingenuity shown in this scene are meant to spark these feelings in viewers.



Infinite Welcome at the Greensboro Children's Museum, Greensboro, North Carolina

medium: Stainless Steel and Steel

dimensions: 38' x 18' x 5'

year completed: 2017

description: About 100 yards from this sculpture is a second installation, *Infinite Welcome*, which reinforces and expands the messages presented in *SkyLINK*. The museum leadership asked Brad Oldham and Christy Coltrin to reimagine an existing steel structure of unknown origin. They painted the steel blue and moved the 38-foot-tall piece to greet visitors from the street and parking lot as well as attract interest from the park across the street. A series of hand-formed and polished stainless steel dots and dashes lead up the leg of the piece to a *SpaceBIRD* viewing the work in progress on *SkyLINK* near the main entrance. The message "Everyone is Welcome" appears in Morse code on *Infinite Welcome*.



Uptown Moment, Dallas, Texas

medium: Stainless Steel and Steel

dimensions: 17' x 6' x 3'

year completed: 2017

description: A 17-foot-tall stainless steel sculpture called *Uptown Moment* was created for the busy corner of McKinney Avenue and Routh Streets in Dallas' Uptown neighborhood. Brad Oldham and Christy Coltrin created this site-specific installation to celebrate the newly built mixed-use project built on a storied historic location. The artists considered the building's iconic footprint and turned it on its side to create a framework in which life's special moments may be captured. Viewers walk around the sculpture to experience the different perspectives, find themselves inside the frame, and see their image within the mirror-polished stainless steel sculpture itself.



Combination, Middlothian, Texas

medium: Steel, Concrete and Bronze

dimensions: 31' x 60' x 60'

year completed: 2016

description: The 31-foot-tall sculpture is the first public art installation in the city of Midlothian, and it has two purposes. First, it creates a focal point – a visual landmark piece – around which residents and visitors can gather. And second, it represents the collaborative strength of the community. Adding to the story is Joe, a bronze sculpture of a man positioned at the base, shown tightening the last bolt. While the twisted beams are the business-community collaboration using locally sourced materials, Joe is the human element, and the driving force behind success.



Together, Washington, D.C.

medium: Lost-Wax Bronze Sculpture on Hand-Cut Granite Base

dimensions: 36" x 66" x 44"

year completed: 2013

description: Brad Oldham collaborated with National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence and fine-art photographer Beverly Joubert in Botswana to create a life-size lion sculpture in bronze. The sculpture shows a rare moment when a male lion interacts with a cub. This scene was Beverly's photos, and it is installed at National Geographic's headquarters in Washington, D.C.



The Traveling Man-Walking Tall, Dallas, Texas

medium: Steel, Stainless Steel, Concrete, Rock & LED Lights

dimensions: 38' x 26' x 24'

year completed: 2009

description: In a single step, this sculpture links the historic, urban neighborhood with the rail station. *The Traveling Man* is a three-site installation featuring this guitar-shaped headed character with his *BIRD* friends that creates a gateway welcome on the east side of downtown Dallas. This installation was included in the Americans for the Arts "Year in Review" program in 2010 for best public art in North America. It has also been named a best public artwork by several national publications and has appeared on many national TV programs. *The Traveling Man* enjoys representing Dallas on a large stage.



The Traveling Man-Waiting on a Train, Dallas, Texas

medium: Steel, Stainless Steel, Concrete, Rock & LED Lights

dimensions: 9' x 9' x 18'

year completed: 2009

description: *The Traveling Man-Waiting on a Train* strums his guitar as his BIRD friends look on. The sculpture is located across the tracks and down the block from the other two sculptures in this commission. This location is a popular picture location for wedding parties, holidays, and other special occasions.



SkaterBIRD, Dallas, Texas

medium: Stainless Steel

dimensions: 22' x 6' x 10'

year completed: 2015

description: The 22-foot-tall *SkaterBIRD* has taken up residence in the Dallas skyline atop of the building where the Brad Oldham Sculpture studio is located. This sculpture represents the leap of faith that artists and entrepreneurs take every day. This fearless-minded sculpture welcomes viewers to take their own jump to the unknown ahead, with style and attitude. Notice how the skyline of downtown Dallas reflects in *SkaterBIRD*'s body – this sculpture has beautiful daytime and nighttime experiences.



The Great One, Brantford, Ontario

medium: Bronze

dimensions: 14' x 6' x 3'

year completed: 2013

description: Brad Oldham worked with Wayne Gretzky and his family to create the 4-piece sculpture at the Gretzky Sports Centre in Brantford, Ontario. Young Wayne holds his parents hands, looks up to the champion skater, thinking that he wants to be him someday. Adult Wayne looks down, thinking, "We did it!"



Lumen Light Team, Dallas, Texas

medium: Mirror-Polished Stainless Steel

dimensions: 78" x 73" x 24" (example of one sculpture size) Bancroft

year completed: 2013

description: This 28-piece, indoor/outdoor installation is throughout the hotel property in varying sizes. Playfully sophisticated, the artwork is based on a story created for the series using light and the boutique hotel's unique qualities to make this a true site-specific installation. Two sculptures – Violet and Bancroft - are shown here.



Ingrid and Ray – and BIRD with Cactus, Dallas, Texas

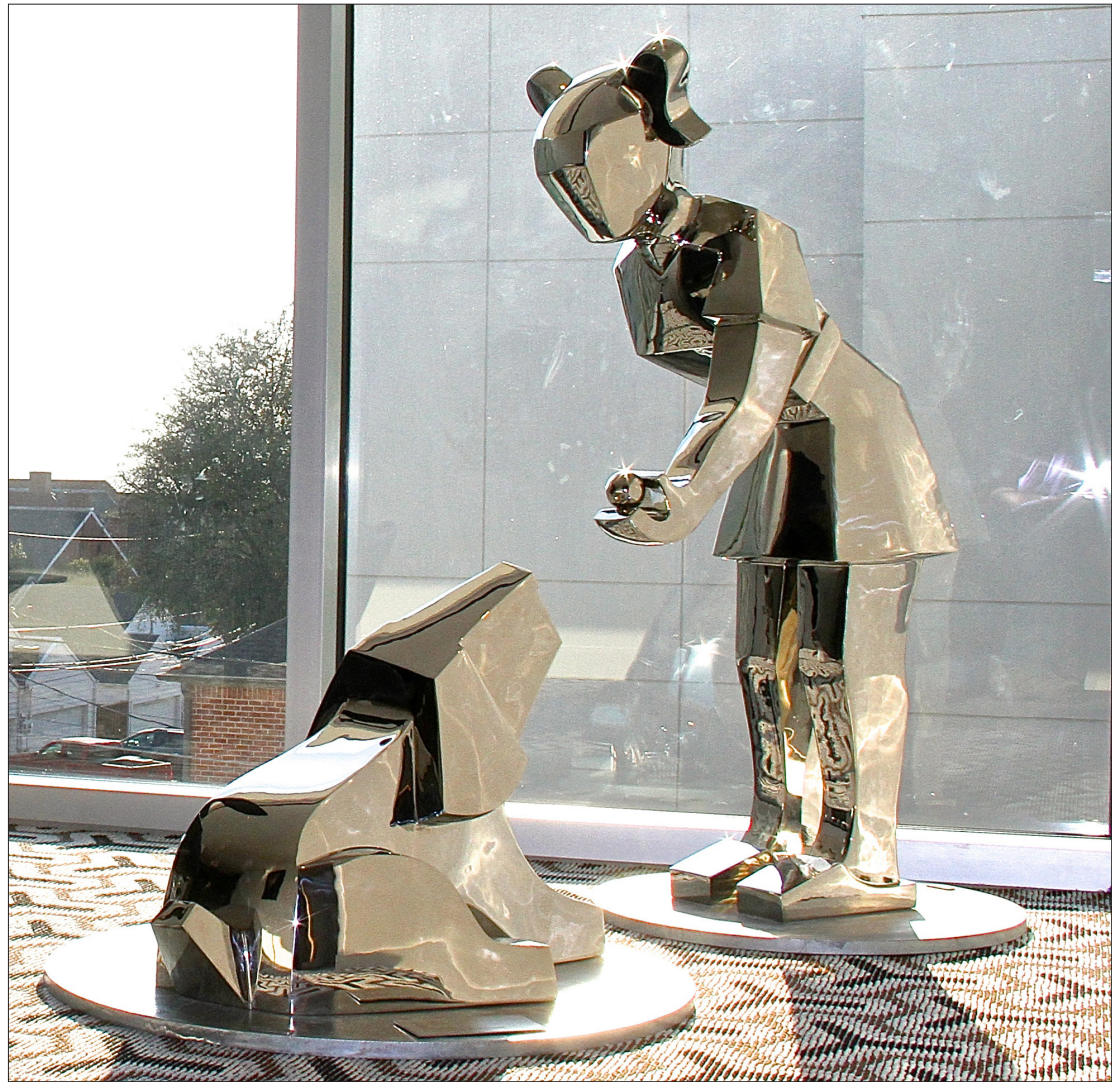
medium: Mirror-Polished Stainless Steel

dimensions: Ingrid 48" x 14.5" x 27.5"; Ray 20.5" x 21" x 28"

year completed: 2013

description: *Ingrid*, the animal lover, fits a niche within the *Lumen Light Team*. She is shown with *Ray*, the dog sculpture in the collection. The hotel is pet friendly, and *Ray* is the known as the mascot of the property.

The *BIRD with Cactus* greets guests upon arrival in the entry courtyard between the two sides of the hotel. Both neighborhood residents and hotel employees claim ownership of the collection of sculpture throughout the property.



Griffin, Houston, Texas

medium: Antiqued Bronze

dimensions: 14' x 9' x 9'

year completed: 2014

description: The 14-foot-tall *Griffin* sculpture stands proud in the lobby of the downtown Houston JW Marriott. His wings extend through the glass to fly above the sidewalk to engage street traffic and welcome them inside the historic hotel. Brad Oldham enjoyed reimagining the icon in the international company logo in this scale and in this location.



Chicago Works at the Fairmont Hotel, Chicago, Illinois

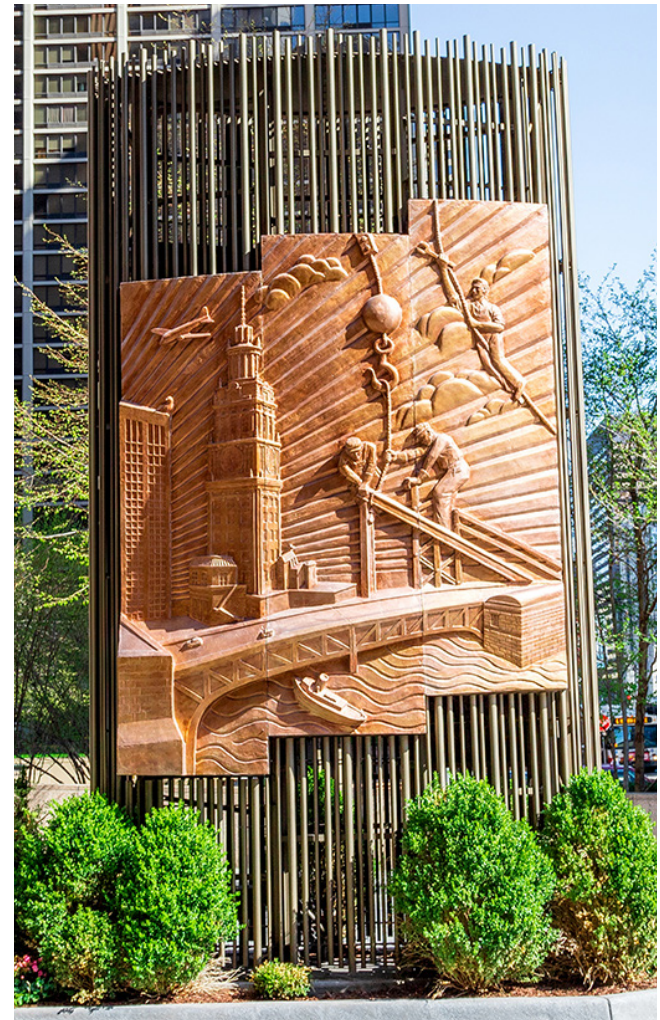
medium: Aluminum and Bronze

dimensions: 20' x 14' x 8'

year completed: 2016

description: A commission can start for many reasons, and this one began when the Fairmont Hotel responded to neighborhood complaints of nighttime light bleed from the hotel's exterior LED sign. The artists considered neighborhood feedback and the historical significance of the location when creating two scenes depicting Chicago's bridges and skyscrapers.

Bronze material worked best for the hotel design, but the oval bronze pipe structure could not support the weight of bronze artwork. Instead, the artists cast the bas-relief panels in aluminum and hand-applied a custom bronze finish. The day of installation, several residents attended and were engaged enough to get the local media to cover *Chicago Works*.



Miss Llinda Llee Llama at the Statler Hotel, Dallas, Texas

medium: Stainless Steel

dimensions: 8.5' x 6' x 3'

year completed: 2017

description: Many elegant and storied guests have stayed at The Statler Hotel over the years. One such guest was Miss Llinda Llee Llama. In 1959, Neiman Marcus invited her to Dallas to be part of its Fortnight program featuring materials and fashions inspired by South American. The artists remember this special guest in our mirror-polished stainless steel sculpture. The historical hotel celebrated the completion of its extensive renovations with this rooftop commission. The sculpture has earned its own social media following and inspired an advice column by the sassy, fashionable personality.



Sweet Carrot at Clearfork , Fort Worth, Texas

medium: Bronze

dimensions: 34" x 11' x 28"

year completed: 2017

description: When Brad Oldham and Christy Coltrin created *The Wild Crops Collection*, they combined iconic fruit and vegetable shapes with animal characteristics to produce tabletop personalities. *Sweet Carrot* is the first of the collection to be realized as public art. Firmly rooted underground, the bright carrot spends most of its life in hiding, its sweetness only discovered by those who dare to dig deep. The humble sparrow might also escape everyday notice. These examples of raw beauty hold the power to nourish and inspire when examined. Each sculpture in the collection comes with a toast to share. For *Sweet Carrot*, it is: "May your words be as light as a feather, and as sweet as a carrot, for tomorrow you may eat them."

