

# MANIFEST v41

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**Past Tense - Marking Time:** Paintings by Jennifer Meanley

| **BACKYARD**



# MANIFEST

CREATIVE RESEARCH GALLERY  
AND DRAWING CENTER

volume 41

## **Past Tense - Marking Time**

Paintings by Jennifer Meanley

## **B A C K Y A R D**

Six Regional Artists

*MANIFEST is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization*

**MANIFEST VOLUME FORTY-ONE**

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**Manifest Creative Research Gallery and Drawing Center**

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First Printing - December 2009

Designed by Jason Franz

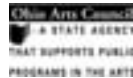
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# PAST TENSE - MARKING TIME

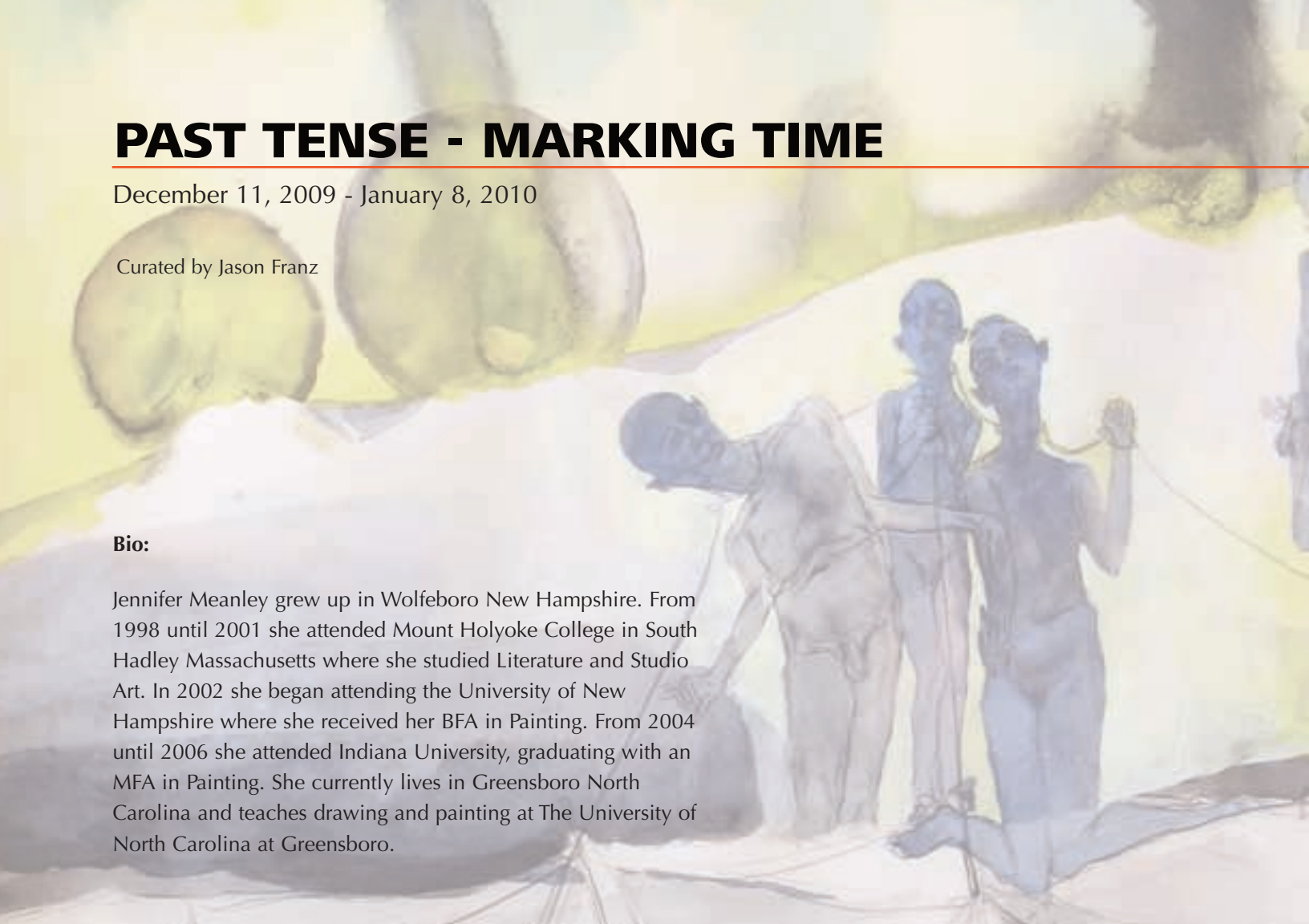
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December 11, 2009 - January 8, 2010

Curated by Jason Franz

## Bio:

Jennifer Meanley grew up in Wolfeboro New Hampshire. From 1998 until 2001 she attended Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley Massachusetts where she studied Literature and Studio Art. In 2002 she began attending the University of New Hampshire where she received her BFA in Painting. From 2004 until 2006 she attended Indiana University, graduating with an MFA in Painting. She currently lives in Greensboro North Carolina and teaches drawing and painting at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.



## Paintings by Jennifer Meanley

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The characters within my paintings often appear to be captured in moments of intimate self disclosure. In this way, they live the suspended existence of people held in that mental space in which the sensation of making discoveries is born or forms. This constitutes the objective 'seeing' of the self in relation to the subjective context.

I would say that the consistent referent within my paintings always points to the concept of storytelling, but in its capacity as an action in which we participate rather than as information that we seek to communicate. Therefore the form of the paintings seeks to give visual correlation to the simultaneous convergence occurring in the moments in which we recognize ourselves as occupying the multiple roles of storyteller, listener and subject.

I believe that we exist in the world in relation to one another. The ways in which we come to know ourselves are informed as much by autonomy and personal agency as they are by the ways in which we locate and identify each other. Therefore, we live simultaneously in many spheres dependant on the roles we occupy within those different spheres: often equally influenced by the assumptions made of us by other people as by our own desires for ourselves as individuals.

This directly relates to the notion of identity in terms of the physical body, the mind, and the spiritual as an entwined story determined and cultivated in individual and communal ways.



**You Choose The Ghost**  
oil on canvas, 48" x 57", 2008

**For the Love of Birdsong and Incredible Heights**  
oil on canvas, 24" x 30", 2007







**Avoidance**

oil on canvas, 48" x 57", 2008

**Quadrant Performance: 7 Years on Tour**

oil on canvas, 48" x 56", 2008





***And in the End, The Monster Ate Them Both***  
oil on canvas, 72" x 108", 2009

***Dirge and Laugh: I wish I had a Raygun***  
oil on canvas, 72 x 72", 2009





***We Went to the Desert to be Pacified I and II***  
mixed media on paper, 24" x 36", 2008





***Arms Conjoined***  
oil monotype on paper, 24" x 36", 2009



***Nothin' But a Crystal Ball***  
oil monotype on paper, 24" x 36", 2009

opposite:

***Sidelong Glance***  
oil on canvas, 72" x 96", 2009







***Precondition I and II***  
oil monotype on paper, 15" x 18", 2008



*...Fever Fever: Recall*  
oil on canvas, 15" x 135", 2009





# **BACKYARD: Six Regional Artists**

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December 11, 2009 - January 8, 2010

Curated by Jason Franz

**Patrick Adams** (Nicholasville, Kentucky)

**Andrew Au** (Cincinnati, Ohio)

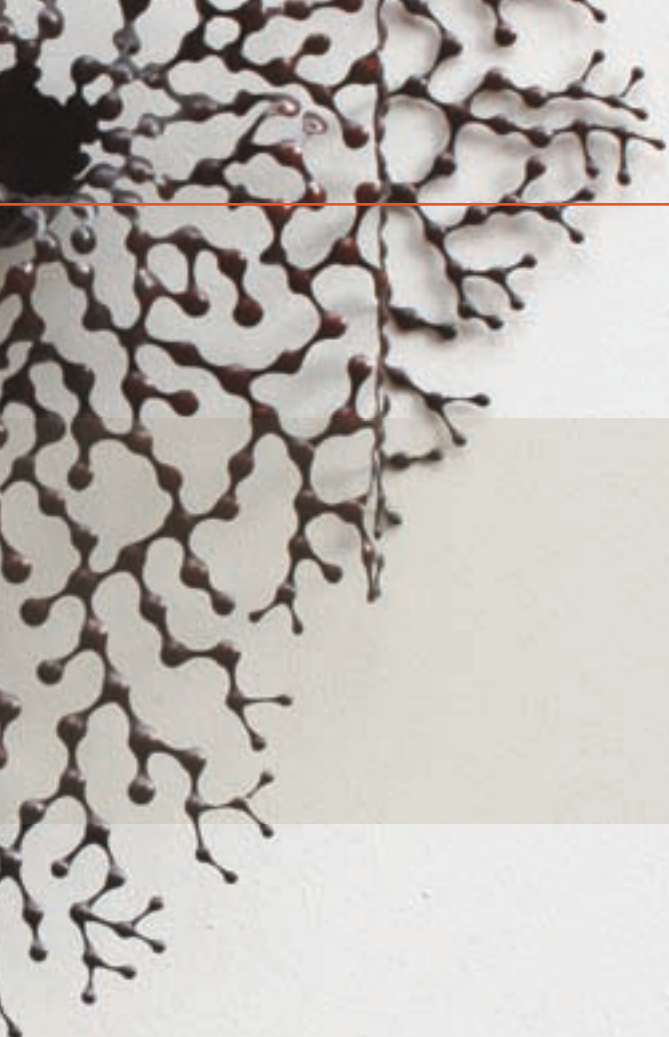
**Cole Carothers** (Milford, Ohio)

**Hunter Stamps** (Lexington, Kentucky)

**Travis Townsend** (Lexington, Kentucky)

**Lisa Wilson** (Oxford, Ohio)





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**THE CINCINNATI REGION** is rich with an abundance of artists, galleries, patrons, collectors, university art programs, professors, and students of visual art. While Manifest serves as a neighborhood gallery for the world, bringing art and people together from around the world through our wide-reaching exhibits, the fact remains that we owe the ability of Manifest to exist and thrive in Cincinnati in large part to the vitality of the regional arts, which starts with the artists in our own backyard.

Therefore, Manifest Gallery is proud to present its first competitive regional exhibit, which invited submissions by artists living within 100 miles of Cincinnati.

Seventy-seven artists submitted 153 works for consideration by the Manifest-assembled jury, half the members of which were from outside the region. The works presented here are by 6 artists from Ohio and Kentucky.

It is appropriate, although completely coincidental, that there are an equal number of artists from above and below the Ohio River exhibiting in Backyard. While Manifest identifies itself as a Cincinnati-based non-

profit with a world-reaching exhibit program, the immediate public it serves is evenly disbursed north and south of our defining natural boundary. As a small grass-roots organization Manifest's 'backyard' is its natural habitat, and so it has been formed in large part by interactions with its co-habitants.

With Backyard we wanted to reach out to our nearest kindred spirits, honor their place as the bearers of our regional creative spark, and thank them for being here rather than somewhere else.

This collection of work spans a range of sizes, media, and artists' backgrounds, with three professors, two full-time artists, and one graduate student involved. While the jury and curatorial agenda was simply one of selecting the highest quality art, Backyard serves as a broad sampling of media, including works of painting, ceramics, sculpture, metalworking, and printmaking, all neatly divided between two-dimensional and three-dimensional works.

Despite its broadness, there is cohesiveness to the exhibit. Without any overt point-by-point connection, these six works seem to set a stage for a story to be told. Two works of fantastical contraptions introduce a cold, manipulative antagonist, while two landscapes provide a setting, the location of a drama unfolding over time. The final two works, both three-dimensional offer a protagonist, and refer poignantly, even in abstraction, to the human body – the victim, survivor, or hero.

Of course these connections are a vague subtext, and certainly not required reading for the casual visitor to the gallery. Rather they serve, perhaps, as the pulse of a theme running through our very own Backyard.





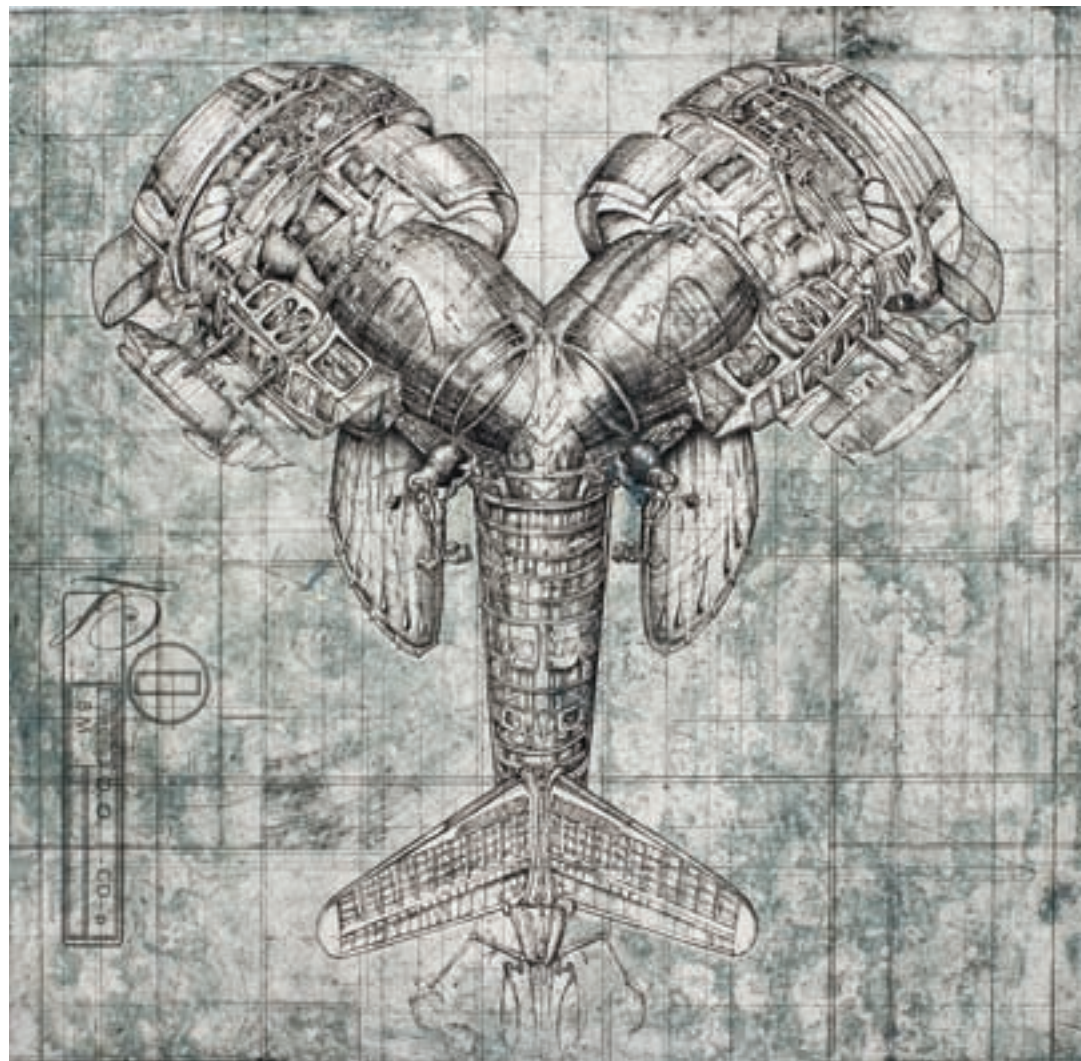
**Patrick Adams**  
Nicholasville, Kentucky

***Frontier***  
oil on two panels, 72" x 80", 2009



**Andrew Au**  
Cincinnati, Ohio

***OO-CDp***  
etching and silkscreen, 23" x 23", 2008



**Cole Carothers**

Milford, Ohio

***Moiré***

oil on wood, 28.75" x 24.5", 2009



**Hunter Stamps**  
Lexington, Kentucky



*The Space Between*  
ceramic, rubber, encaustic, 16" x 14" x 15", 2008

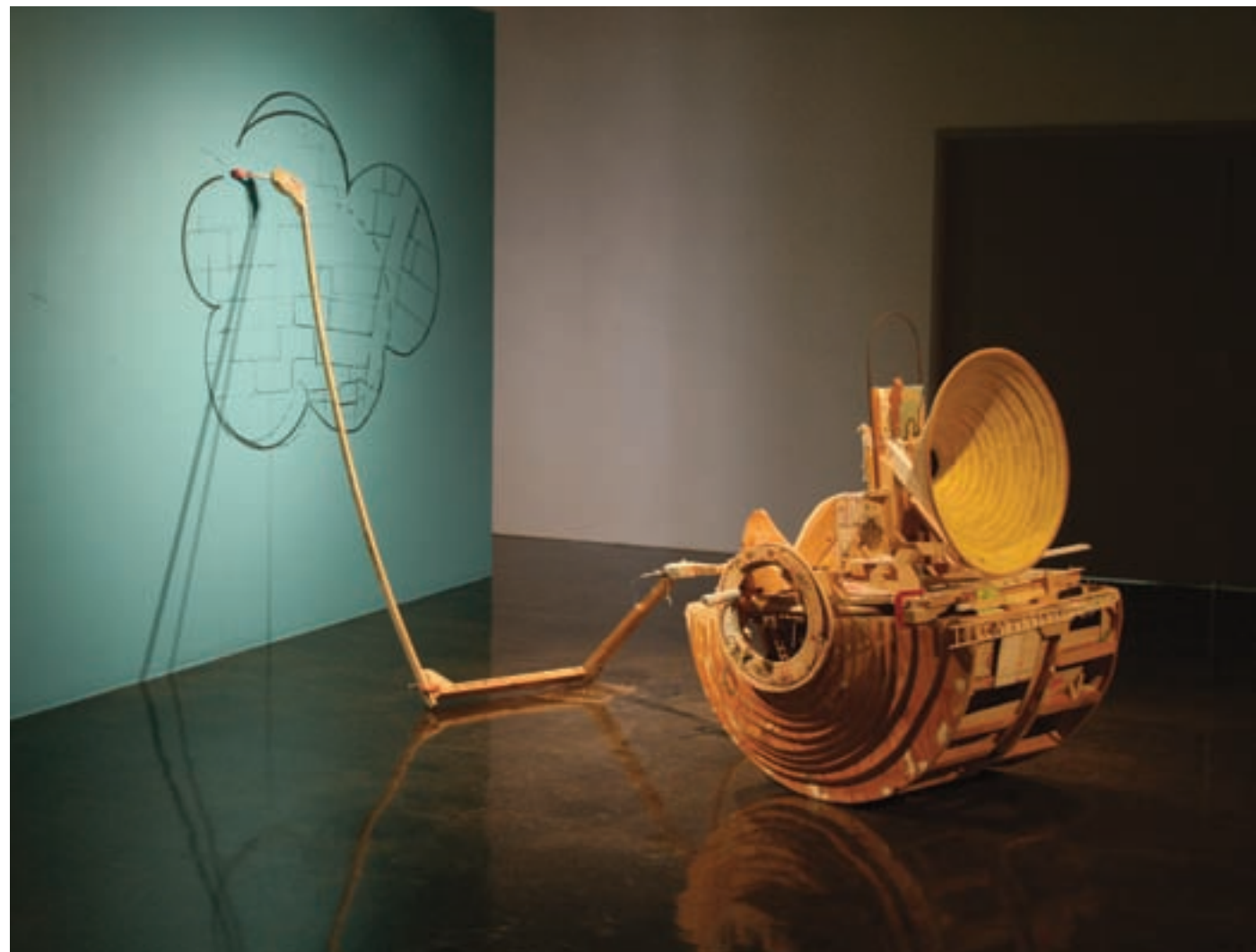




**Travis Townsend**  
Lexington, Kentucky

***Another Tankard (4th Permutation)***  
wood and mixed media, 100" x 120" x 100"  
(dimensions variable), 2008-2009

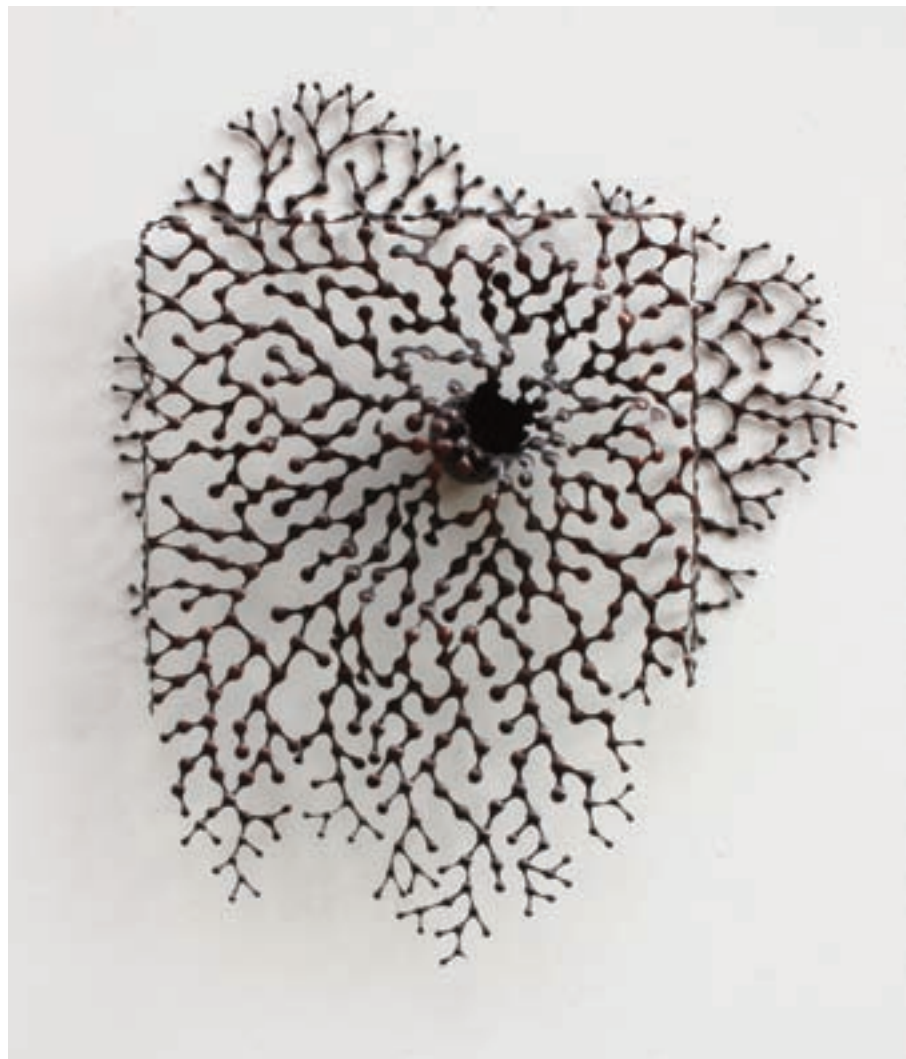


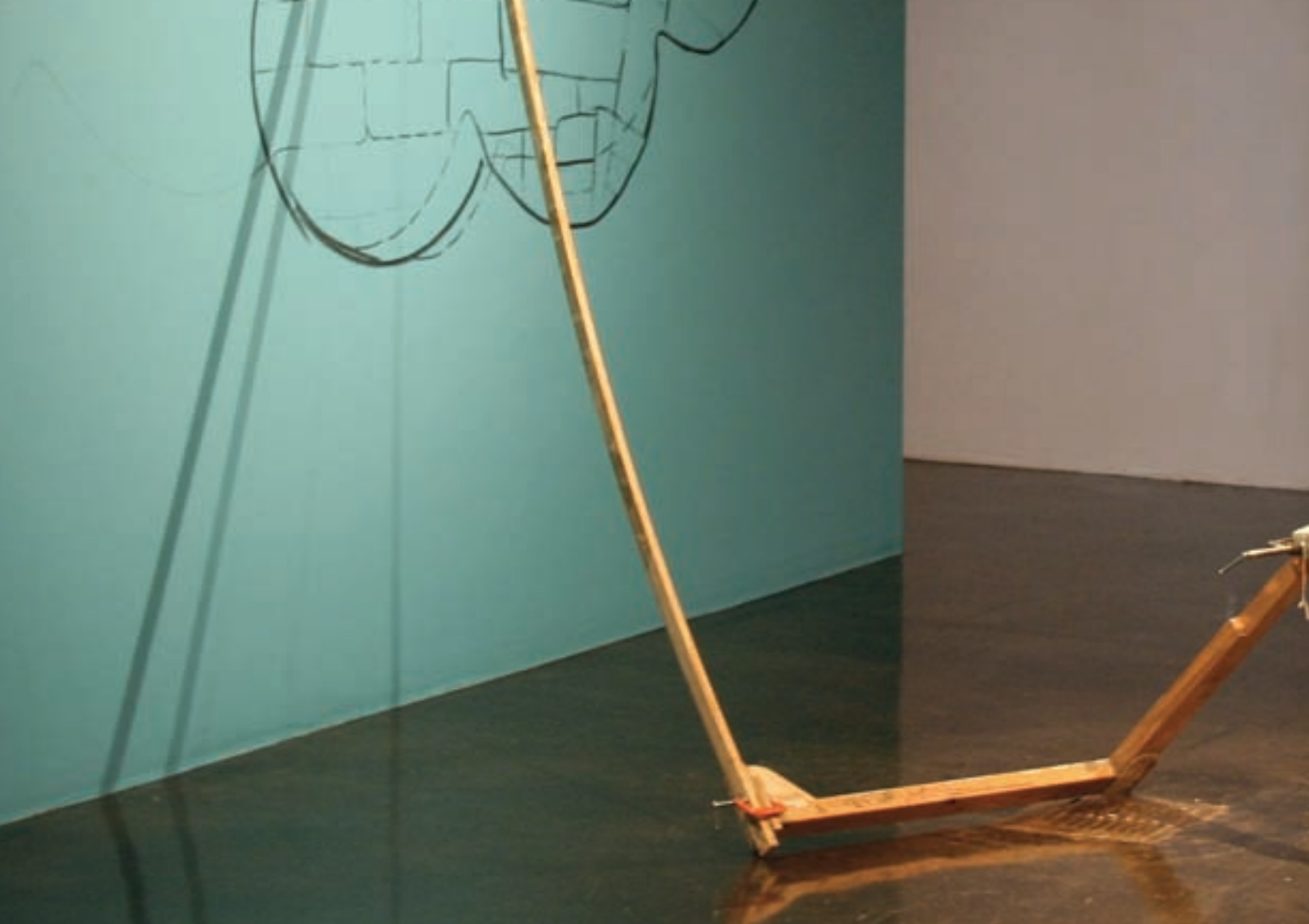


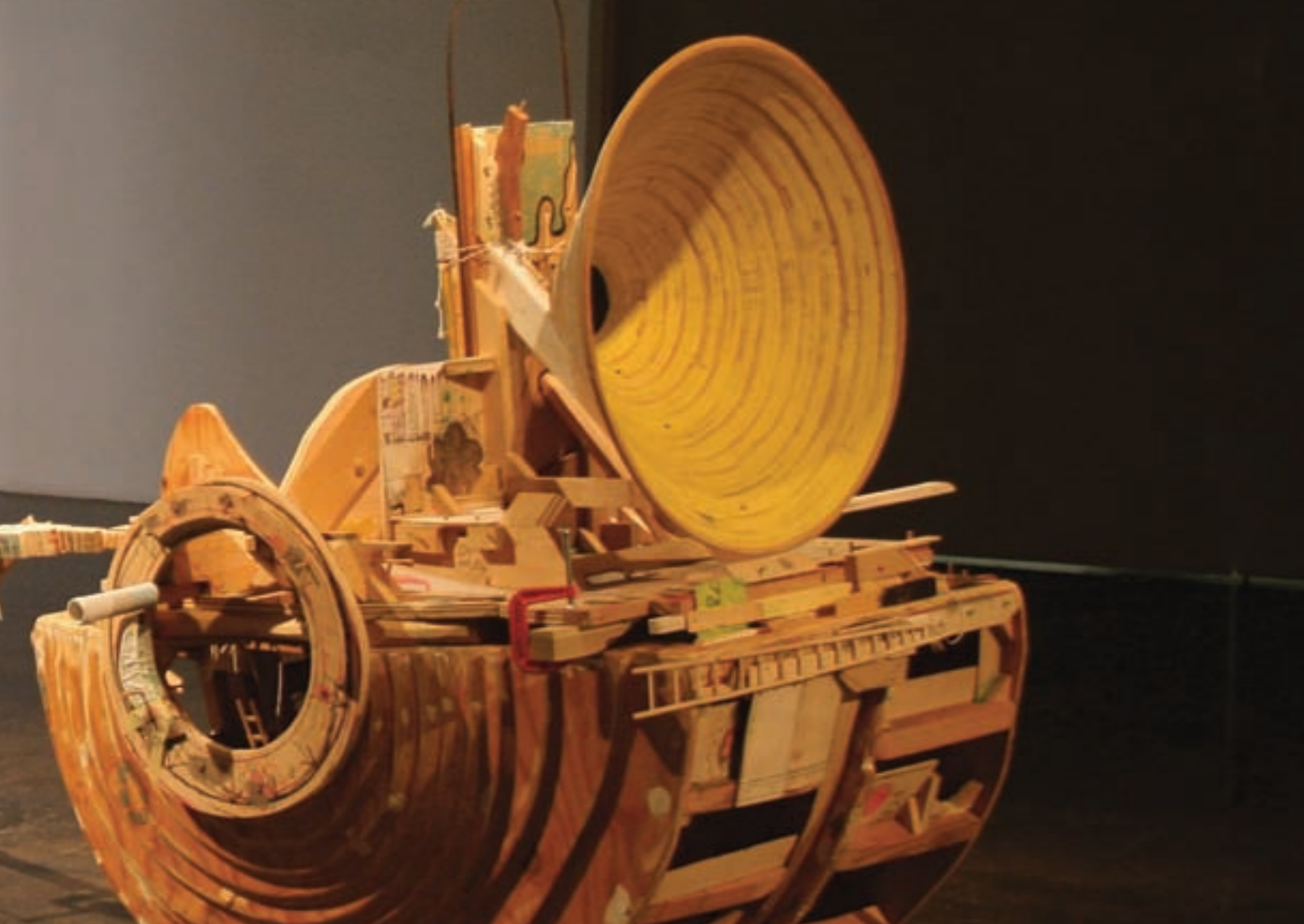
**Lisa Wilson**  
Oxford, Ohio

***Invasive***  
copper, patina, 16.5" x 20" x 3", 2009









## ***About Manifest***

Founded in May of 2004, Manifest Creative Research Gallery and Drawing Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization headquartered in the urban neighborhood of East Walnut Hills in Cincinnati, Ohio. The elegant street level exhibition space is minutes away from downtown Cincinnati, and the numerous academic institutions of higher learning in the region. It is also within easy walking distance of a diversely populated historic neighborhood with residents from all walks of life. The galleries are free and open to the public five hours a day, five days a week, presenting works by students and professionals from around the world. The Manifest Drawing Center Studio is located in the nearby Walnut Hills Essex Studios Complex.

Manifest is supported by grants and public donations and has the goal to support student professionalism, integrate the arts into the urban residential community and raise the bar on artistic standards. The mission also includes the exploration of the relationship between art and design, as well as the ongoing support and display of drawing in all its various forms.

## ***Mission***

Manifest stands for the quality presentation, experience, and documentation of the visual arts, engaging students, professionals, and the public from around the world through accessible world-class exhibits, studio programs, and publications.



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**MANIFEST**

CREATIVE RESEARCH GALLERY  
AND DRAWING CENTER

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