

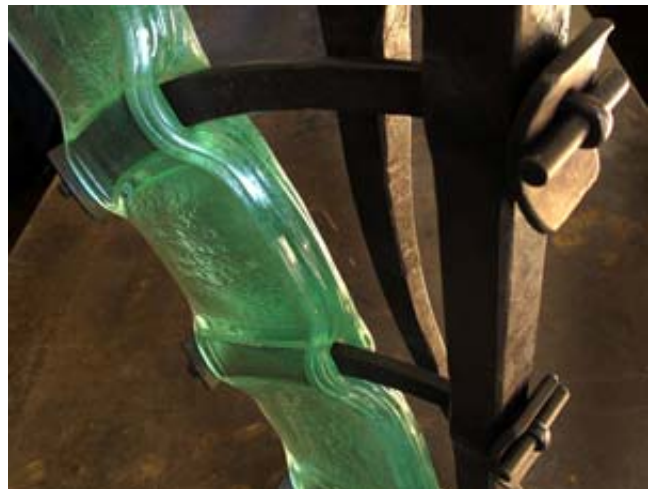
For Immediate Release
June 17, 2011
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Pratt Fine Arts Center Presents *Gallery in the Garden*
Outdoor Fine Art Exhibition at Swanson's Nursery
July 16 - 31, 2011

Opening Night Celebration
July 15, 2011
6 - 9pm

Pratt Fine Arts Center and Swanson's Nursery are celebrating summer with *Gallery in the Garden*, an outdoor fine art exhibition featuring work by Larry Calkins, Darin Denison, Patrick Maher and Bart Turner along with small works by select artists. The public is invited to stroll through Swanson's lush five acre park in Crown Hill and enjoy distinctive sculptures of carved stone, hand blown and kiln cast glass, forged metal and mixed media. The exhibition will be on view July 16 - 31, 2011.



Through the *Gallery in the Garden* exhibition, Pratt is proud to promote regional emerging and established artists. Both Patrick Maher and Larry Calkins are beloved Pratt instructors. Maher owns and operates Red Door Studios where he combines traditional forging with modern fabrication, creating harmony and balance between the distinctive styles. Calkins works in a variety of mediums including photography, encaustic painting, metal, fabric, wax and clay creating fantastical pieces based on real or imagined stories, histories, and futures. Bart Turner has worked in Seattle as a visual artist for more than fifteen years producing sculpture and architectural commissions using forged metals and kiln cast glass. Glass artist Darin Denison has worked alongside Lino Tagliapietra and Dante Marioni, and his sleek, swan-like blown and sandblasted glass sculptures beautifully round out the exhibition.

Pratt is also pleased to present a series of one-of-a-kind sculptural birdhouses by artists Chuck Lopez, Matthew Nelson, Lauren Osmolski, Kareem Tai, Alair Wells and many more. Artists were invited to create a "birdhouse" with the sole limitation that the work be suitable for display outdoors. This creative freedom has resulted in a fascinating medley of birdhouse sculptures in a variety of shapes, styles and mediums. In addition to the birdhouses, a small yet delightful grouping of accessibly priced artworks will be available. Proceeds support local artists, in addition to Pratt's classes and programs.

An Opening Night Celebration will be held on Friday, July 15 before the exhibition opens to the public. Event attendees will enjoy a beautiful evening of art, music, food, friends, and festivities all benefiting Pratt Fine Arts Center. Tickets to the Opening Night Celebration are available at www.pratt.org or by calling Pratt Fine Arts Center at 206.328.2200. Friday night admission is \$50.

For sponsorship opportunities for *Gallery in the Garden*, contact Katie Miller at kmiller@pratt.org or call 206.328.2200 x 262.

What: **Gallery in the Garden Outdoor Exhibition: Larry Calkins, Darin Denison, Patrick Maher, Bart Turner and selected works by additional artists**
When: Saturday, July 16, 2011 - Sunday, July 31, 2011
Where: Swanson's Nursery, 9701 15th Ave NW, Seattle, 98117
Time: 9am - 6pm
Admission: FREE & Open to the Public
Parking: Free parking available

What: **Opening Night Celebration**
When: Friday, July 15, 2011
Where: Swanson's Nursery, 9701 15th Ave NW, Seattle, 98117
Time: 6pm - 9pm
Admission: **\$50**
Parking: Free parking available

Image courtesy of Bart Turner. High resolution images available on request.

Since 1976, Pratt Fine Arts Center has offered art classes for everyone and workspace for artists in its equipment-rich facilities in Seattle's Central District. Pratt serves 3,400 students each year and more than 500 working artists use Pratt's affordable studios and equipment.

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