

Suspended in Water or Air

by Emma Blake McClellan

Here is a photograph of the sculpture temporarily located near the corner of Euclid (Avenue of Champions) and South Limestone on the University of Kentucky campus. It will be made available for permanent installation. It stands 18 feet in height and is entitled *Suspended in Water or Air*.



Ms. McClellan is a senior at the University of Kentucky where she is studying to earn a Baccalaureate of Fine Arts in Sculpture. She has worked in the mediums of cast iron, fabricated steel as well as mixed media and sculptural installations. She works as a foundry assistant at the Tuska Fine Art Foundry (www.tuskastudio.com) and volunteers at the Sculpture Trails Outdoor Sculpture Park in Indiana (www.sculpturetrails.com). The park includes over 22 large scale works. Ms. McClellan assists in the installation and maintenance of the sculptures.

Artist's Statement:

The current body of work I am producing focuses on locations, belonging and regional traditions. Much of this work explores cultural connections to the land and natural environment.

From these conceptual ideas, the sculpture *Suspended in Air and Water* is formally based on boats in the Kentucky waterways. This piece is designed to capture the juxtaposition between the meditative and calming effect of floating down a river and the experience of floating through the air. Rusted red-brown boat forms reference the rich colors of Kentucky waterways, while the "dock" is expressed through vertical poles reaching for the sky. The boat forms are "lifted" out of the water on poles in the water, emphasizing the removal from their natural environment of the waterways and placement into the urban environment of Lexington, where the boats become vessels floating in the air. The poles create a space for people to walk under and through the work giving views and intimate opportunity to be within the atmosphere created by the sculpture. The viewer can relate their own experiences and reflection of a personally poignant moment in their past such as time spent near a river, on a boat or in some natural connection to the environment. The sculpture also has lines flowing in an upward progression and linear angles that seemingly balance the forms to give a calming effect on the viewer.

The model for *Suspended in Water or Air* is built at a one inch equal to one foot scale. The full sized sculpture will be eighteen feet to the top with the base six and one half feet by six and one half feet. The concrete pad will be eight feet by eight feet.