

2014 GREATER HOUSTON REUSE CONTEST

ART AND FURNITURE CATEGORY

Judges:

Mayor Annise Parker, City of Houston

Harry Hayes, Chief Operating Officer, Director of the Dept. of Solid Waste Management

Dan Phillips, Founder, Phoenix Commotion

FIRST PLACE - ART AND FURNITURE CATEGORY

Kiki Neumann Repurposed Art Studio



Folk Artist Kiki Neumann has used cast off materials found from the streets of Houston for over 17 years. Her mission was to make a repurposed art studio for 4 other artists to use and rent. The entire 1800 sq ft metal warehouse that she already owned was converted to 6 total studios. With her own money and no financing she built out a 2 story studio where it once was just an open one room space which was originally 24 foot high. Then as a finishing touch, Kiki built a kitchen and bathroom area entirely out of found materials. That included baseball bats for the stair spindles, yardsticks for the sliding bathroom door and license plate kitchen counter tops. Paintbrushes were the drawer pulls and ladder rungs were the coffee cup holders. Downstairs all the doors were made from yardsticks or found corrugated greenish colored tin.

The only money spent was for appliances and lighting. It's a colorful happy break area for the artists tucked away under the staircase. Mission accomplished and it is ever changing with more cast off materials as they are found (like vintage bottle openers adorning the stair risers.....need a drink opened???)

Recycled items used:

License Plates, Yardsticks, Reclaimed wood (of course), Paintbrush drawer pulls, Baseball Bats
Bottle openers, Ladders, Scrabble words used throughout (like WASH YOUR HANDS!), Coke
Cartons wooden, Pressed tin, Corrugated tin, Used mirror, Barnwood, Bottle openers, Thrift
store cups and kitchen utensils, Coffee bean sack canvas bags, A wing and a prayer.....



SECOND PLACE
Michael Horvath

ART AND FURNITURE CATEGORY
T.M.S. Freeport, Deep Six Fleet



Growing up on the Gulf Coast, I have always had a fascination with the ocean and a deep respect for its power to simultaneously destroy and create. I have also struggled with throwing things away. I have always thought that there were many useful parts and pieces that could be re-purposed or recycled and used elsewhere.

Finding inspiration from self-taught folk artists, I decided to try my own hand at creating my own form of art. I decided that I would create it using only scraps, parts and pieces of old equipment, and items destined for the trash bin. With this, I created the “Deep Six Fleet” which is a series of ships that seem to be losing the battle with nature but at the same time appear timeless.

The piece in the photos is the **T.M.S. Freeport**. The ship is based on an oil tanker from around the late 60’s to early 70’s and is very similar to many of the oil tankers that plied the ocean during the oil boom. The hull is constructed of pieces of scrap wood from old particle board shelves. The deck features old electrical wiring, drywall anchors, screws, wiring staples, bottle caps, old window screen, washers, water filter caps, wing nuts, wrenches from a deck chair assembly project and various other bits and pieces. The supports connecting the piece to the base are old lag bolts and a piece of treated wood taken from an expansion to our deck.



THIRD PLACE ART AND FURNITURE CATEGORY
Daniel Meaders Abstract Shelving



Every bit of the wood used in this abstract shelving concept was reclaimed and pulled out of homes in Houston by myself personally, and consists of a variety of materials. The old growth pine shiplap used to construct much of the shelves came off the side of a home located in the heights. It was going to simply be demoed and the owners contacted us to salvage the timeless material. The panelling is constructed of various materials that range from bits of older furniture that I found, deconstructed, and ripped down specifically for this project to old growth oak flooring that I pulled up personally in a home in West U, Houston. Scrap from our sawmill, Salvaged Wood Sawmill, was utilized strategically in the project to accent and provide a natural aesthetic as well. The client that consigned us to build this was inspired by another artist on the web and we borrowed the concept to custom build the piece to fit the space located in a loft in downtown Houston. We believe in the sanctity of the environments that we custom make our pieces for, and in accordance with this used a natural beeswax to achieve a pleasing matte finish. I hope this piece inspires others to look at the unlimited usable material all around them, appreciate its true value, and see the beautiful art that can be created utilizing it properly. Thanks Very Much!



THE RUNNERS UP
In Alphabetical Order

ART AND FURNITURE CATEGORY

**Briargrove Elementary School Eco-Team and Old School Produce
Art Garden: Solar-Powered Hydro-Planter**



As part of Briargrove Elementary School's 2014 community day of service, a small, locally owned business, Old School Produce, worked with the school's Eco-Team to create a **Solar-Power Hydro-Planter**. The hydro-planter was designed and built using 526 pounds of reclaimed building construction materials, uses locally sourced organic compost and soil, and recirculates water using a pump system powered by the sun. A beautiful and functional work of art, the hydro-planter compliments our school's edible gardens, butterfly gardens, and orchards, which collectively create habitat for birds, butterflies, and insects, and yield student-grown produce, promoting healthy eating. On our school's day of service, the newly installed garden gave us the opportunity to educate our community of over 150 volunteers that reusing construction materials, rather than sending them to a landfill, is a wonderful way to save money and protect our Earth. Going forward, this innovative tool will continue to allow our students the opportunity to have the hands-on experience of organic gardening, educate them on the power of using renewable energy, and remind them of the importance of conserving natural resources for years to come!



ART AND FURNITURE CATEGORY

Greg and Kelly McGill Workbench made from wood pallets



My wife and I took 7 used wood pallets of different sizes and cut them in half. We then stacked them and screwed them together with 3 inch screws. The boards were removed from 5 additional woods pallets and cut into drawers and handles. Left over wood from one pallet was used to make a jar rack to allow for convenient storage of screws, nails, nuts, bolts and pencils for easy access and stored in recycled mayonnaise jars. The green tops and sides are recycled material from packing dividers used to separate the glass jars which originally arrived on the wood pallets. The screws and castors are the only material purchased for this project.



ART AND FURNITURE CATEGORY

Kirk P. McMillan “Done by Hope”



“Done by Hope” is an abstract art statement, built out of wood cut as little as possible; then sanded lightly and painted. When the Ebola crises in Africa started it appeared that we are in more than just a difficult situation we are in a complicated battle. Only after we were asked to look at our responsibility to our 13,000+ brothers and sisters, and do what is right did I see any real hope of defeating this microscopic enemy. For me this could only be suggested through and with an angel like creature to symbolize the struggle accomplished by hope. The angel has great strength, ability and is a being of exemplary conduct and virtue. Hope is a powerful thing!

This contest was the motivator to do something else with this material instead of putting it in the Landfill. The material used was from Hurricane Ike (9/13/08) damage. After the clean up, contacting the Insurance Company, planning and getting the repairs done and moving back in to our home; there developed a pile of left over wood from the repairs. So with 2x4's, 2x6's, fence material, trim that was removed from the house became the building blocks of the piece “Done by Hope”.



ART AND FURNITURE CATEGORY

Larry Lee 1889 Bicycle, Three 1880's Tricycles, and Trailer



To properly restore antique vehicles one is obliged to use recycled materials as a necessity. The bicycle, three tricycles, and trailer required restoration. The 1889 55" Columbia Light Roadster required parts but not the diversity as the tricycles.

For the three 1880's tricycles; wood for seats, hand grips, and floor boards were made from scrap boards or tree limbs (hand grips). Parts as replacements could be seen in old photographs.

The bearings had to be cleaned and carefully measured to find old balls to replace the damaged or missing items. There are no cages holding ball bearings in place, only careful adjustments of the retaining nuts. There are ten sets in each tricycle (and 8 sets in the bicycle).

Scrap leather was used in making straps, seats, trim or oil seals.

Old style square nuts and slotted bolts were located, cleaned, blued or painted to match those existing undamaged parts remaining.

Used lawnmower edger parts were cut, drilled, welded, and ground for use as brackets for all tricycle lamps and one old cyclometer. There are three rear facing red lens oil lamps, two forward facing candle lamps and one forward facing oil lamp.

Scrap flat bar was used for basket supports, floor supports, seats and seat backs as required and bolted in place with proper old type fasteners.

Scrap brass bars were used to make two bearing housings on the inner rear wheels of the front tricycle.



ART AND FURNITURE CATEGORY
Pen Morrison Guitar Series



I am an artist and a music fan. I created my “Guitar Series” wall sculptures as tributes to the musicians and their guitars.

I research the brand of guitar as well as the songs and lyrics they played. I cut the guitar shapes out of steel and use found objects such as old saw blades, spark plugs, old chains, rope, horseshoes, tin cans, beads, old buttons, hardware, etc. The rest of the materials come from the Houston ReUse Center. The old plywood, siding, flooring, shiplap, (sometimes with wallpaper attached) signage, and misc. I-don’t-know-what that I find there is essential to convey the character of the art work., and the old wood creates a mood that I cannot get from new materials.

I love the idea that parts of old houses become these artworks.

The “Drinking Series” is made mostly from scraps from the Reuse Center. I paint the words and the bottles on plywood, shiplap, old signage, and fences. I love that there are many scraps that I can use that no one else wants.



ART AND FURNITURE CATEGORY

Richard Klein The Gypsy Wagon



Over the past three years, I have been collecting a number of reused items so that I could build a “wagon”. The results of my efforts are The Gypsy Wagon. An 8’ x 10’ trailer had been sitting in a nearby lot, with rotted floorboards, tires, and electrical wiring. I talked with the owner and made an easy agreement to take the trailer. New tires, wheels, lights and tags and the foundation was done. (Not a good idea to use recycled tires, wheels, or electrical wiring!)

Next, I gathered every 2 x ____ I had and replaced the rotted floorboards from recycled lumber. The flying bridge was created by using the cargo racks from my pick up truck, 2 x 6’s from an old deck project, and a piece of 3/4” plywood from a local fire department throw away pile. The play house was discarded by an area school, and I secured it to the trailer in three different planes (x, y, and z) so that highway travel would be possible.

The final touches included a Tea Cart for serving organic teas to my friends, Bonnie the Blue Cow (named after Bonnie Raitt; she sings the blues so well) that was damaged in a hurricane, and a trolley bell I picked up at a garage sale many years ago.

Motto: Find New Ways To Use Old Stuff

