

WILLIAM CANNINGS

Born in 1970, Manchester, England. Lives and works in Lubbock, Texas.

Since 2000, Professor of Sculpture at the School of Art, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas.

EDUCATION

- 1995-98 Master of Fine Arts-Sculpture, College of Visual and Performing Arts,
Syracuse University, New York
- 1989-95 Bachelor of Fine Arts-Sculpture, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
- 1988-89 Loughborough College of Art and Design, Loughborough, England.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2005 *Gathered, Squeezed, Popped*, Anya Tish Gallery, Houston, Texas
Inflatables, Galveston Arts Center, Galveston, Texas
- 2004 *Blown-up*, Lowell Collins Gallery, Houston, Texas
- 2003 *Free Speech*, Art Depot Gallery, Lubbock, Texas
- 2002 *Now See Hear*, A. D. Gallery, Amarillo College, Amarillo, Texas
- 2000 Spark Gallery, Syracuse, New York
Zoid Gallery, Syracuse, New York
- 1998 Fine Arts Gallery, College of Oneonta, State University of New York, Oneonta, New York.

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2005 *Regional Invitational – Summer 2005 Exhibition*, New Mexico State University Art Gallery,
Las Cruces, New Mexico; Juried Invitational Exhibition, juried and curated by Mary Anne
Redding, supported by a \$60,000.00 grant from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the
Visual Arts.

- 2005 *Way out West*, a curated exhibition of Texas Tech University's School of Arts faculty and graduate students. Williams Tower, Houston, Texas. Curated by Sally Sprout.
Lubbock Arts Festival, Juried Invitational Exhibition. Lubbock, Texas.
- 2004 Marfa, Texas Tech University, School of Art Sculpture Exhibition. Current Artwork by Faculty and MFA Candidates, Christopher Building, Marfa, Texas.
Metal Arts 2004, Juried Exhibition. The Ellen Noel Art Museum, Odessa, Texas. Juried by Sherry Owens. Awarded Jurors Recognition.
Sculptors Dominion Invitational- 2004 International and Colossal. Outdoor Exhibition. The Villa del Carmen, San Antonio, Texas.
38th Annual National Drawing and Small Sculpture Show. Juried Exhibition. Joseph A. Cain Memorial Art Gallery, Corpus Christi, Texas.
Erotica, Juried Exhibition, K Space Art Studios, Corpus Christi, Texas. Juried by Barbara Riley and Louis H. Katz.
Texas Tech Art School Faculty Exhibition, Landmark Art Gallery, Lubbock, Texas.

ARTIST STATEMENT

It is through the pursuit of making that I define myself,
I use process to connect with ideas and concepts.

I am lured to the visceral quality of inflated objects: the look, feel and smell. I remember as a child bouncing on a 'space-hopper', a day-glow orange toy with the fresh scent of rubber and vinyl. Inflatable objects have exposed me to new kinds of experiences, from playthings to architectural structures. I enjoy the interaction of squeezing, pushing, pulling and being absorbed. It permits a tangible, physical awareness of self and environment. Lying on an inflated mattress, one sinks into and becomes surrounded by the air. Inflated objects have become a symbol of our popular culture: cheap, disposable, fun and whimsical, sometimes frivolous and distasteful.

I am now researching the effects of inflation on more permanent materials such as aluminum and steel. I am imitating the visual qualities of rubber and fabric, materials more associated with the process of inflating. This play on our senses is one I find worth researching and exposing.

Flat metal patterns are seam welded with tailored precision and inflated like rubber tires. There is a dynamic and fresh change from two-dimensional pattern to three-dimensional form. The hard permanence of metal is transformed. By addressing the surface, (chrome plating, hand rubbed lacquer, automotive paints, powder coating, graphite) subtleties within the form are made more apparent. Surfaces that are polished and chromed reflect their environment and also represent a place of dreams and distortions. Audience, object and environment work together. I want to achieve surprise and an immediate reaction to the inflated forms from an assumed perspective – a dissemblance. This becomes a way of playing with a traditional formal approach of looking and judging.