



# Before the Fall I

Exhibit by Travis Graves

August 28 – September 8, 2006

Si ocumb Gal I eries

# Artist Statement

Everyone, to one degree or another, has based their perceptions of the world around them and the way they live through choices of religion, consumption habits, and life style. These decisions affect our actions, opinions, expectations; the daily process of how we live our lives. When in doubt over the implications of our behavior we fall back on the familiarity as a means of justification. Our notion of contentment is to be comfortable with our expectations.

In my work I seek to investigate our notions of expectation and perception as it defines our explanations of how utility and reason reflect upon the natural world. I am very interested in the relationship between nature / culture, society's dependence on nature, and its influence over it. I have chosen wood as a subject matter because of its reference to the natural world, of its familiarity, and for the expectations we have attached to it. We know it to be ridged, solid, and heavy. However it is presented here in a way that breaks with those expectations and asks the viewer to reconsider how they perceive what they are experiencing. Logs and branches appear cut, broken, and in a state of deterioration; yet suggest wholeness, movement, and a sense of liveliness. What is happening, what is about to happen? Objects feel as though they are about to fall, but do not; as if caught in a moment. Are they falling apart or are they attempting to rejoin or heal themselves? In this way the viewer is not only aware of the objects in front of them, but become aware of themselves in the space they both occupy; attentive to their own presence.

With the "In Balance" series, logs defy logic in how they sit on sawhorses or hang from rope. With these pieces (as also with the "In Suspense" series) I have been thinking of the wood metaphorically in context to our relationship with the natural world. Sometimes our relationship is even, consistent, harmonious, and balanced. At other times it becomes more irregular, setting us off balance with ourselves, and matters of consequence around us. Within my work I look to engage questions of how we view the environment and identify our relationship to the world in which we exist.

BEFORE THE FALL

TRAVIS GRAVES







In Balance #5 (wood & metal)



In Balance #5 (wood & metal)  
details



In Suspense #6 (wood & metal)



Inside / Outside (plastic, foamcore & mirrors)  
*A.K.A. Hole in the Wall*



In Suspense #5 (wood & metal)



In Suspense #5 (wood & metal)  
detail s



In Balance #3 (wood, rope, & metal)



In Balance #3 (wood, rope, & metal)  
details



In Suspense #1 (wood, nylon, & metal)



In Suspense #3 (wood & metal)

# Resume

## **TRAVIS GRAVES**

507 Field Road  
Elizabethton, Tennessee  
[graves.travis@gmail.com](mailto:graves.travis@gmail.com)

### **Education**

Masters Degree of Fine Arts	2003	Sculpture	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Bachelors Degree of Fine Arts	1996	Studio Art	Iowa State University

### **Teaching Experience**

2005 – present

*Assistant Professor*, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN  
Foundations Coordinator and full-time faculty member in Dept. of Art and Design

2003 - 2005

*Adjunct Faculty*, Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design - Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
3-D Design Foundations (including public art & contemporary art issues) Fall & Spring 2004  
Drawing Foundations (addressing technique and figure model). Fall 2003

2002 – 2003

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Wisconsin-Madison,  
*Instructor of Record*, Foundation Drawing (addressing technique & critical discussion).  
2 classes each semester Spring 2003 and Fall 2002

2002

*Instructor*, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Continuing Education Program  
Intermediate and Advance Drawing (focusing on technique and perspective).

# Resume

## Grants / Awards / Honors

- 2006 Major Research and Development Committee Grant for Faculty, ETSU
- 2005 Best of Show Award, 48th Annual Exhibit, Wright Museum of Art, Beloit, WI
- 2004 Honorable Mention, 59th Juried Exhibition: Sioux City Art Center, Sioux City, IA  
Juror: James Rondeau, Curator of Contemporary Art, The Art Institute of Chicago
- 2004 Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Mary L. Nohl Grant Fund  
(Suitcase export fund for Visual Artists) Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- 2003 Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Award: International Sculpture Center, Hamilton, New Jersey - juried by Tom Otterness, artist / sculpture
- 2003 Albert Murray Fine Arts Scholarship, Adamsville, Ohio
- 2002 Kemper-Knapp Committee Grant, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2002 CitiArts Individual Grant, Madison, Wisconsin
- 2002 Albert Murray Fine Arts Scholarship, Adamsville, Ohio
- 2001 Albert Murray Fine Arts Scholarship, Adamsville, Ohio

# Resume

## Exhibition Record of Last Five Years (\* solo shows)

- 2004     *The 13th* : Red Rocket Gallery, Chicago, IL. (group show)  
          *ISC Awards Group Show* : Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton, NJ : Jurors: Tom Otterness,  
          artist and Susan Taylor, Director of the Princeton Art Museum (catalog)
- 2003     \* *Postcards from Rome* : Wisconsin Arts Board Gallery, Madison, WI - Juried
- 2003     \* *Impossibly Possible / MFA Thesis* : Seventh Floor Gallery-University of Wisconsin- Madison
- 2003     *Locally Owned & Operated* : Steinhilber Gallery, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh
- 2003     *Cycles, Patterns, Intervals* : Fredericksburg Center for the Arts, Fredericksburg, VA (juried)
- 2003     *All Media 5 International Juried Exhibit* : Period Gallery, Omaha, NE
- 2002     Slop Art Catalog: St. Louis, MO (national distribution, juried)
- 2002     \* *Balance* : GSC Bascom Gallery, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2002     *The Boys* : Odin Gallery, La Crosse, WI (invitational)
- 2002     *58th Juried Exhibition* : Sioux City Art Center, Sioux City, IA : (catalog)
- 2002     *Catch 22* : Seventh Floor Gallery, University of Wisconsin-Madison

# Resume

## Exhibition Record of Last Five Years (\* solo shows)

- 2002        *126 Miles to Madison* : Wood Street Gallery – Chicago, IL (group)
- 2002        *Wisconsin Invasion* : Kresge Art Center, Michigan State University, E. Lansing, MI
- 2002        *Wisconsin Invasion* : OtherWise Gallery, Lansing, MI
- 2001        *Reconstruction* : Gallery 734, Madison, WI
- 2001        *Four out of Five* : Seventh Floor Gallery - University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2001        \* *Guided by Voices* : GSC Bascom Gallery, University of Wisconsin-Madison (2 person)

# Resume

## Professional Services

Visiting Artist, Tusculum College , Greenville Tennessee, April 2006

I visited the Sculpture area, gave a lecture on my artwork, and participated in a class critique.

Visiting Artist, Hastings College, Hastings Nebraska, January 2006

Upon Invitation, I visited the Art Department at Hastings College for four days as a Visiting Artist.

While there I gave a public lecture on my work, I conducted a two day workshop on methods of carving.

Faculty Council Committee Member, College of Arts and Sciences, ETSU \ Sept. 2005 - current

Guest Art Exhibition Juror, Irwin, Tennessee \ November 2005

I juried an exhibition of art work by the students of Irwin high School. The Exhibit was sponsored by the General Federation of Women's Club and hosted by Irwin City Hall.

Planning Committee Member, for the *Open Art Project*, 2004

The Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design (MIAD) initiated the *Open Art Project* to create a major new work of public art for the Third Ward of Milwaukee, and involve the public in its creation.

Artists considered for the project were Luis Jimenez, Kinji Akagawa, and Jin Soo Kim.

Director, *Students for Students*, Madison, WI , 2002

Organizer of a community art event called *Students for Students* which brought 70 area high school art students, from 11 different schools, together with 20 college art student mentors. The events goal was to establish a link between art students, the community in which they live, and art. Utilizing their skills through collaboration, these art students created street mural drawings at the base of the Wisconsin state capital building; community attendance numbered in the hundreds.

# Resume

## Bibliography

Allison Alfonso, "The Arts", *Johnson City Press*, Oct. 9, 2005, section / tempo

Mary Louise Schumacher, " 'Suitcase Fund' gives undiscovered a chance", August 28, 2005, 8E

*The Plymouth Review*, "UW-Sheboygan hosts sculpture invitational", July 8, 2004, C1-2.

*Sculpture Magazine*, award announcement with photo, October 2003, Vol.22, No. 8

Heidi M. Pascual, "Wood Exhibit," *The Madison Times*, Vol. 10 No. 48, November, 2001, 13



Contact info:

Karlota I. Contreras-Koterbay

Director, Slocumb Galleries

Box 70708, Department of Art & design

ETSU, Johnson City, TN 37614

Office: 423.439.4291

Email: [contrera@etsu.edu](mailto:contrera@etsu.edu)

<http://art.etsu.edu/slocumb>

Designer: Ryan Johnson