

April 13, 2022

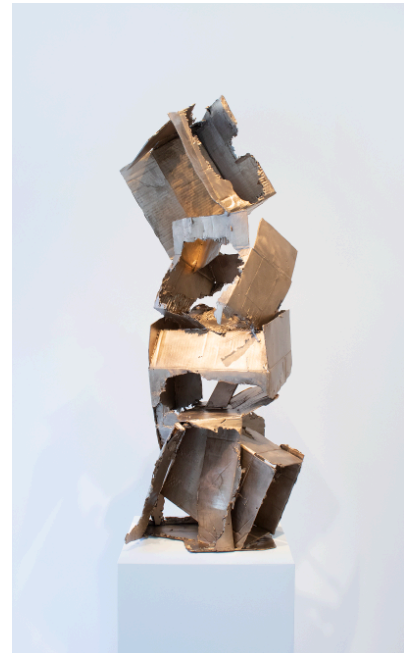
PRESS RELEASE***Joseph Havel: Birdsongs***

Exhibition Dates: May 7–July 16, 2022
Opening Reception: Saturday, May 7 from 6–9 pm, in conjunction with Jammin' on Julia
Gallery Location: 434 Julia Street, New Orleans, LA 70130
Hours: Tuesday–Saturday, 10 am–5 pm
Contact Info: 504.522.1999; www.arthurorogergallery.com

The Arthur Roger Gallery is pleased to present *Joseph Havel: Birdsongs* an exhibition of sculptures and wall assemblages by Joseph Havel. The exhibition will be on view at Arthur Roger@434, located at 434 Julia Street, from May 7–July 16, 2022. The gallery will host an opening reception, with the artist in attendance, Saturday, May 7 from 6–9 pm in conjunction with Jammin' on Julia.

The bronze sculptures and wall assemblages exhibited in *Birdsongs* is a collaboration between renowned sculptor Joseph Havel and his African grey parrot Hannah. Like most Americans during lockdown, Joseph Havel turned to online shopping to fulfill basic needs. With the abundance of cardboard boxes Hannah reverted to her natural instincts and began chewing on the boxes. Havel stacked the boxes and allowed Hannah to revisit the boxes to make sure she was happy with her creations. Once both artists are satisfied with the box tower creations, Havel casts the creations in Bronze. "She brings her instinct, I bring mine, and somewhere in the middle we meet," Havel says.

The work is a statement about the excess and waste of modern convenience. The convenience of quick, on-demand delivery increases the demand for fossil fuels and creates excess carbon emissions. The demand for cardboard boxes contributes to deforestation and habitat loss of species like the African grey parrot. The precarious appearance of the structures is a nod to the chaos of the past two years and the demise of our planet's ecosystems.



Tumble Tower, 2021 | Bronze | 38 x 14 x 14 inches

Along with the exhibition at Arthur Roger Gallery, other pieces from this body of work are on view in *Parrot Architecture* at Dallas Contemporary from April 16–August 21 and *Flight Paths and Floor Plans* at Dallas's Talley Dunn Gallery from May 7–June 18.

Joseph Havel is director of the Glassell School of Art at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston. In 2010, the Art League of Houston named Joseph Havel as "Texas Artist of the Year." He was born in 1954 in Minneapolis and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts at the University of Minnesota and a Master of Fine Arts at Penn State University. He has exhibited across the United States and abroad. His bronze sculpture "Exhaling Pearls," from the collection of the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, was included in the 1995 exhibition "Twentieth Century American Sculpture at the White House."

Joseph Havel was selected to participate in the 2000 Whitney Biennial and the 2001 Phoenix Triennial. In 2006, the Museum of Fine Arts Houston hosted the exhibition "Joseph Havel: A Decade of Sculpture 1996-2006." In addition to the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Havel's work is in the collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Dallas Museum of Art and the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth.

For more information please contact the Arthur Roger Gallery at 504.522.1999 or visit our website at www.arthurrogergallery.com.