

Arts Alpharetta

is a volunteer driven 501(c)3 organization dedicated to developing a dynamic arts community in Alpharetta. The City of Alpharetta has joined in that commitment by fostering an arts-friendly atmosphere with the following projects:

- **Alpharetta Arts Center** – classes, gallery, lectures, workshops and art events
- **Public Art** – a commitment to building the City's permanent collection including recent installations of new works in Downtown Alpharetta by Georgia artists Michael Dillon, Gregory Johnson, Marc Moulton/Duke Oursler and Deanna Sirlin
- **Annual Cultural Events** – including theater in the park, concert series, art shows and Wire & Wood Alpharetta Songwriters Festival, a two-day festival where nationally recognized songwriters perform on multiple stages

Arts Alpharetta
DOWNTOWN
ALPHARETTA
ARTS
WALKING TOUR



The Visitor – Geemon Xin Meng

Fiberglass, Acrylic paint

"The Visitor" is a slight departure for the artist, a sought after portrait sculptor, who has created commissioned works for well-known figures such as Neil Young and Pierre Trudeau. With the tilt of the bear's head, the placement of the paws on his belly and the words scrawled across his body, one can, almost hear him say "Hello. Come talk to me." The endearing qualities are enhanced by the deliberate misshapen form that suggests furry heft. "The Visitor" personifies the welcoming nature of Alpharetta.

Xin Meng is the Director of the Vancouver Sculpture Studio. He studied fine art and design at the Central Academy of Beijing and moved to Canada in 2004. A prolific artist, he also serves as a mentor for the MFA program at Lesley University, Cambridge, Mass., and is a member of the British Society of Portrait Sculptors.

Torqued Chroma –

Tristan Al-Haddad
Steel, Polycarbonate,
Polished Terrazzo

Torqued Chroma is a tensioned dichroic film applied between two polycarbonate layers. The colors reflected by the film shift as the sun moves throughout the day and as the viewer observes the work from different perspectives.

Al-Haddad is owner and chief creative officer of Formations Studio, noted for world class works of sculpture and complex architectural designs. The collective engages in acts of art, architecture, science and research by working across disciplines and with many collaborators.



The Lion and the Mouse –

David Landis
Stainless Steel, Cast Aluminum

In the Aesop fable, the humble mouse comes to the rescue of the king of the beasts. In this work at the Alpharetta Library, the Lion is trapped in a book as the mouse gnaws through the rope to free him.

Sometimes called the "neighborhood artist," Landis is one of the South's most prolific public artists. Atlanta based Landis' work often features animal themes. Two of his sculptures are on the Atlanta BeltLine. Others include "Currents" at US Bancorp Center in Minneapolis, and "The Dance" at The Ritz-Carlton in Shenzhen, China.



The Defenders – Kevin Chambers

Bronze

This work honoring veterans and soldiers in the field was made possible through donations from the community. The intensity of two soldiers in full combat gear is evidence of Chambers's ability to express emotions, gestures and personal stories through art.

Chambers received a BFA in media arts and animation from the Art Institute of Atlanta and studied the figure with master draftsman Glenn Vilppu in Naples, Italy, and also worked with painter and illustrator Elio Guevara. In 2015, Chambers was elected into the National Sculpture Society.



Scorpion –

Rob Lorensen

Stainless Steel

Scorpions are adaptable, at home in a wide range of environmental conditions. Lorensen captures the characteristic forward curving tail over the back emphasizing its sinewy form to suggest a body in motion. View the work from different angles and note how the polished stainless steel reflects the light, further adding to the sense of movement.

Rob Lorensen is a professor of sculpture at Bridgewater State University. His works have been included in a number of exhibitions including Pierwalk in Chicago, the Sarasota Season of Sculpture and the Convergence International Arts Festival in Providence, R.I. His work is included in more than 200 public and private collections.



Hanging – Eileen Blyth

Powder Coated Steel

"Hanging" provides a place to meet, rest and play. Each bench connects to a steel handmade hang drum. The brightly colored benches contrast with the surrounding landscape thereby drawing attention. Children intuitively know how to engage with the work, though all ages are invited to create a moment of self-expression. The work calls to be examined and inspires all sorts of playful possibilities.

Originally from Charleston, Blyth is known for her expressive paintings and sculptures using found objects. She has also participated in exhibitions throughout the U.S., Italy, Japan and Germany. After graduating from the College of Charleston with a B.A. in arts, she studied design at the University of South Carolina.

VISUAL ART

PERMANENT PUBLIC ART

The redevelopment of Alpharetta's downtown has spawned a growing public arts program. In 2018, the city added a series of works themed "Instruments of Inspiration" to its permanent collection. The works celebrate the Alpharetta music scene, which includes the Ameris Bank Amphitheater, Wire & Wood Alpharetta Songwriters Festival and multiple intimate music venues throughout the city.

MISCELLANY: an open-air gallery

Miscellany is a temporary exhibit (May 2018-June 2019) in Brooke Street Park behind Alpharetta City Hall. A call for artists generated an impressive response and seven artists were selected from around the country and Canada. In keeping with the theme, *Miscellany*, the sculptures reflect a variety of styles and materials.

Michael Rooks, High Museum of Art Wieland Family Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, served as the juror for this inaugural event. Rooks is known as an art curator dedicated to community-building and engaging audiences across generations from every walk of life. In addition to his responsibilities at the High, Rooks served as Commissioner and co-curator of the U.S. Pavilion at the 12th International Architecture Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia, in 2010 and is an independent art writer.



Rīta Zieds (Morning Flower) –

Tamsie Ringler

Cast Iron, Steel

In this work, a steel bedframe supports a cast iron saulite, the Latvian ethnographic symbol for the sun. The saulite was created by a process known as iron pour, which requires a specially designed furnace for melting the iron. The sculpture is purposefully oriented to face the east as most morning flowers unravel into full bloom in the early morning.

Ringler is an assistant professor of sculpture and foundry at the University of Minnesota. She has won numerous awards including the McKnight Fellowship for Visual Arts and was elected to the Royal British Society of Sculptors. Her works have been exhibited throughout the US and Europe.



Homage Series JC3 –

Gerald Siciliano

Lightweight, High Impact Resin

The Homage series features discarded automobile bumper covers that are reinvented into bent and twisted sculptural forms. As seen with this piece, JC3, is a visually interesting and playful work created by reclaiming nearly indestructible industrial detritus. The series masterfully pays "homage" to iconic 20th century sculpture in a uniquely 21st century idiom.

Siciliano trained in traditional studio methods at the Pratt Institute, where he is now professor of sculpture, life study, mold-making and foundry. His work includes exhibitions and commissions throughout the world, and he has been an invited guest artist at international sculpture symposia.



Laborer – Mike Wsol

Steel

Wsol's "Laborer" (pictured on the cover) shows a worker in the act of a difficult task, a figure in mid-stride carrying a large load of boxes from one place to another. The boxes are pricked with small holes to create a planetarium that can be entered via the worker's front leg, providing a space to reflect, think, or meditate on intersections between work and dreams.

An assistant professor of sculpture at Georgia State University, Wsol holds both a Master of Fine Arts in sculpture from the University of Georgia and a Master of Architecture from the University of Virginia. He is a frequent guest critic, speaker and writer. He has participated in exhibitions in New York, Washington D.C., Atlanta, Chicago, and Miami, among other cities.

Modern Saxophone –

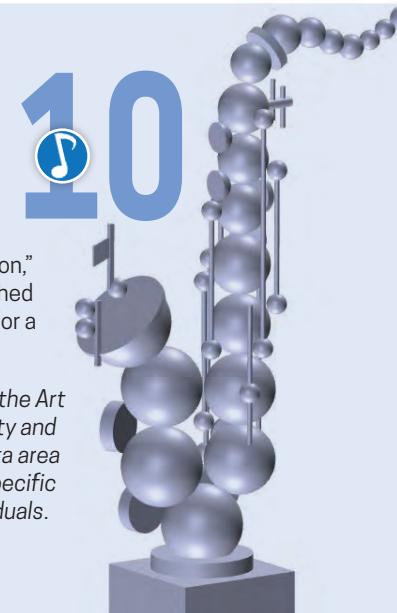
Gregory Johnson

Stainless Steel, Gold Powder

Arriving 2019

The saxophone was invented in 1840 to be the most powerful and vocal of the woodwinds, and the most adaptive of the brass instruments. In creating this work for the "Instruments of Inspiration," Johnson uses gold powdered keys and highly polished stainless steel notes that seem to float in the air for a contemporary take on this classic instrument.

Originally from Chicago, Johnson was educated at the Art Institute of Chicago, Bowling Green State University and Illinois State University. He relocated to the Atlanta area in 1981 and has distinguished himself with site-specific works commemorating history, industry and individuals.



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Idiophone – Michael Dillon

Steel, Stainless Steel
This interactive piece functions as a sort of reverse gong. The vertical element or pendulum remains static while the circular element is rotated to strike against the pendulum to create a deep resonate percussive sound.

Dillon's work is known for its interaction with its environment, light, weather and human activity. He has more than 20 years of experience producing both functional and non-representational metal sculptures. His work ranges from personal memorial sculptures for Hospice Atlanta to monumental public sculptures.



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Twist and Shout– Marc Moulton, Duke Oursler

Aluminum, Steel

This work pays homage to the 1961 song "Twist and Shout," written by Phil Medley and Bert Berns, and recorded by numerous artists, including The Beatles. The sculpture includes stylized musical notes and a palette of bright colors that establishes a visual rhythm and movement.

Marc Moulton and Duke Oursler have a long history of collaboration that began when Oursler took undergraduate art classes from Moulton. Currently, Oursler is an assistant professor of art (sculpture) at Western Illinois University. Moulton is a professor of art (sculpture) at Georgia Southern University.



Ring around the Rosie – Martin Dawe

Bronze

A group of children play Ring around the Rosie, drawing attention to the sculptural form of this 100-year-old elm.

Dawe's CherryLion Studio specializes in fine art sculpture commissions for public and corporate clients and for private collectors. His most recent commission is an 8-foot-bronze statue of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Georgia State Capitol.



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Bremen Town Musicians – Deanna Sirlin

Stainless Steel

In the Grimm's fairy tale of the Bremen Town Musicians, farm animals no longer useful to their masters are fearful of being killed and flee together to Bremen, where they find purpose as musicians. Bremen has its own sculpture of the animal musicians, and tradition says that rubbing the donkey's feet brings luck. Sirlin incorporated this idea, in the form of touchstones, particular areas on the animals' bodies designed to be touched by viewers.

This whimsical piece is a departure for Sirlin, an internationally recognized artist known for large-scale digital transparent installations. She is perhaps best known locally for her installation "Retracings," which encompassed virtually the entire glass front of Atlanta's High Museum of Art.



PERFORMING ARTS



From songwriter performances, culture-infused theatre acts and concerts by the city's musical ensembles, to a new modern arts center featuring demonstrations, exhibits, and lectures, downtown Alpharetta's arts landscape is simply waiting to be discovered with exciting events every week. Visit the Calendar of Events at awesomealpharetta.com for a full list of performing arts events happening in the city. For more details about events at the Alpharetta Arts Center, visit alpharetta.ga.us/arts

THANK YOU
Arts Alpharetta would like to thank the **Alpharetta City Council**, **Alpharetta Convention & Visitors Bureau**, and the **City of Alpharetta** for their generous support.
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TOUR STOP NO. 8 See inside to learn more about this sculpture

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awesome ALPHARETTA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU THE CITY OF ALPHARETTA GEORGIA