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CASEY CURRAN'S KINETIC SCULPTURES CAPTURE HAUNTING BEAUTY OF HUMAN INNOVATION
"Escaping Earth" on view at Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, January 25 – March 29, 2020

Escaping Earth: The Kinetic Work of Casey Curran
January 25 – March 29, 2020
Main Gallery
Houston Center for Contemporary Craft
4848 Main Street, Houston, TX 77002

Exhibition Reception
Friday, January 24, 5:30 – 8:00 PM
The evening will also feature the opening of *Drawn to the Work: Illustration and Craft in Conversation* in the Front Gallery and open studios by the current resident artists. Beer will be generously provided by Buffalo Bayou Brewing Co.

Hours & Admission
Open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 AM – 5 PM, and Sunday, 12 – 5 PM. Closed on major holidays. Admission is free.

(HOUSTON, TX) October 31, 2019 – Houston Center for Contemporary Craft is pleased to present *Escaping Earth: The Kinetic Work of Casey Curran,* featuring kinetic sculptures, asteroid paintings, and installations that reflect the haunting beauty of human innovation and its aftermath. The exhibition, which is Curran's first solo show outside of Washington State, showcases the artist's ability to create exquisite sculptures that convey the complexities found within nature, art, and architecture.

In this collection of work, Curran questions the human psyche and the ultimate purpose behind the human drive to define and create. Representing the impulse to control nature for human consumption, his kinetic sculptures evoke a sense of curiosity and wonder in the viewer. In pieces like "Seed," he presents a garden of ghostly, lace-like forms that bloom into gothic tableaus of flora and fauna. He comments, "We have created both beauty and desolation, defined only through the lens of our goals, and it is through this lens, this eye of the beholder, that I bring a seed of an idea to the audience."

Curran is also fascinated by the history and future legacy of human innovation and discovery, drawing parallels between the two. Historically, civilizations have tried to make sense of both the infinite and microscopic aspects of the Universe. Curran's asteroid paintings depict glimpses of these endeavors, as captured by various space programs. The paintings flank a large-scale sculpture of an asteroid, which the artist created using a combination of laser-cutting and handmade techniques during his recent residency with Amazon. The asteroid's surface design mimics the geometry of stained-glass windows in cathedrals, mosques, and Buddhist temples, bringing together the sacred and profane.

This exhibition captures the impact of human aspirations on the finite system of resources found in the terrestrial environment, as well as on the new frontier of outer space. HCCC Curator, Kathryn Hall, comments, "Curran captures both the beauty and the dark side of innovation. While we continue to build monuments that mark our existence, and we seek to colonize new frontiers, Curran questions the overall costs of this quest for immortality on our ecosystem, giving pause to the universal impact of the human race."

Escaping Earth: The Kinetic Work of Casey Curran is curated by HCCC Curator Kathryn Hall.

About Casey Curran

Based in Seattle, Washington, Casey Curran is a metalsmith who holds a BFA from Cornish College of the Arts. Curran has exhibited internationally in several group shows and numerous times in Washington State. He has been the recipient of various awards and residencies, including the 2019 Amazon Artist-in-Residence (Seattle, WA); the G.A.P. Grant, Artist Trust (2014/2010, Seattle, WA); 1st Place in the City Arts: Fall Art Walk Awards (2014); the Sculpture Space Residency (2013/2010, Utica, NY); and Best of Show for the Poncho IFA Awards (2008/2007). Visit www.caseycurran.com for more information.

About Houston Center for Contemporary Craft

Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (HCCC) is a nonprofit visual arts center dedicated to advancing education about the process, product, and history of craft. HCCC provides exhibition, retail, and studio spaces to support the work of local and national artists and serves as a resource for artists, educators and the community at large.

Located in the Museum District at 4848 Main Street, HCCC is open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 AM – 5 PM, and Sunday, 12 – 5 PM. Holidays: Closed Easter, July 4th, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Admission is free. Free parking is available directly behind the facility, off Rosedale and Travis Street. HCCC is three blocks south of Wheeler Ave. MetroRail station on Main Street.

HCCC is supported by individual donors and members and funded in part by The Brown Foundation; Houston Endowment, Inc.; the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance; Texas Commission on the Arts; the National Endowment for the Arts, the Kinder Foundation; the Morgan Foundation; Windgate Charitable Foundation; and the Wortham Foundation. HCCC is a member of the Houston Museum District and the Midtown Arts District.

For more information, call 713-529-4848 or visit www.crafthouston.org. Find HCCC on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram @CraftHouston.

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