

November 4, 2018, through January 6, 2019

Curt Clonts – Paintings and Objects works by **Curt Clonts** of Wichita, Kansas

Statement

I love a 100 year old, wood frame building for the interior walls and wood work I find inside.

I examine the “wear and tear” - the cuts and gouges. The many layers of paint, left scared and scratched - with the odd note someone scrawled in pencil near the rotary phone, still hanging on the wall. Lovely imperfections, stained by hundreds of hands over time.

This is life, with its odd colors and worn exterior.

The paintings and objects I create are me.

I am older, tried, gouged, multi-layered, and very happy to still be around.



Winter Plan Los Angeles/Boston (detail)
by Curt Clonts

Curt Clonts
2018

Biography

Curt Clonts was born in Wichita, Kansas in 1959, but has moved about, living in Southern California, Okinawa, Japan (where he met Taeko, his wife of 39 years), New Orleans, Dallas, El Paso, and finally back to Wichita in 1991. He took his first lessons in art at age 7 from Lindsborg, Kansas, artist Maleta Forsberg in 1966. Clonts credits Ms. Forsberg with giving him an excitement for art that never subsided. Clonts also received valuable tutelage from artists Annie Lowrey, and nationally known James (“Jim”) Gross who were both teachers in the Wichita Public School System in the 1970’s. Beyond this, Clonts is self-taught.

Clonts is a mixed media artist with a focus on the use of acrylics and graphite. His practice is to create tension between colors and shapes in order to reflect the imperfections of life itself. Drips and splatters are celebrated. Drawn lines and marks are rarely straight, and collaged drawings are slightly askew. The challenge is to utilize these manufactured imperfections and create work that

reflects his great happiness while acknowledging the many hardships and difficulties that life presents along the way.

A resident of Wichita's College Hill neighborhood, Clonts is an active member of the creative community. He writes and broadcasts art commentary, *An Artist's Perspective*, on Wichita's NPR Affiliate, KMUW Radio. He was the artist-in-residence at Friends University in Wichita for a period of seven years. His work can be found in collections across the country and has taken up residence in Kansas collections which include Wichita Center for the Arts (Mark Arts), Emprise Bank, Vantage Point Properties, Paula and Barry Downing, and the Wichita Art Museum.

Clonts' most recent solo exhibition took place at the Leedy-Voulkos Art Center in Kansas City, Missouri. His new work can be seen in Wichita at Clonts' College Hill Studio by appointment at (316) 618-0089.



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401 N. First Street, PO Box 348, Lindsborg, KS 67456

(785) 227-2220 fineart@sandzen.org www.sandzen.org

Gallery Hours: Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.