March 27 through May 29, 2022

Blue current work by **Connie** and **John Ernatt** of Wichita

About Connie

Connie Ernatt loves hunting for treasure to use as inspiration. She finds it in found objects or "artifacts" that carry with them symbolic meaning and historical relevance. While mainly sculpting in bronze, Connie uses the chimpanzee as a metaphor to explore and question the human condition. Her works layer ideas, much like a satirical cartoon, in the hopes of giving them broader meaning.

Connie grew up on a farm, just on the outskirts of Wichita, Kansas. She graduated from Wichita State University with a degree in sculpture and continued on to graduate school at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas. She moved back to Wichita in 1997 and splits her time between her personal studio practice and creating larger commissioned artworks. She is proficient in sculpting, casting, mold making, painting, drawing and design, restoration, consultation, research and idea development. Connie has been working in Wichita for the last 25 years alongside her husband John Ernatt. Together they operate out of "The Diver," their full-time art studio and gallery.

About John

John Ernatt has been living in Wichita and involved in the art world for the past 30 years. After graduating from Wichita State University he received a trickle down art education from his friends Eric Schmidt, Kent Williams, and Patrick Duegaw with whom he founded Fisch Haus on Commerce Street in the early



Invisible Man by Connie Ernatt



Code Night by John Ernatt

1990s. It was through hosting shows for other artists there that he met his future wife, Connie, who was exhibiting with a group of WSU sculpture students in 1993.

In 2006 John and Connie purchased the original Fisch Haus building at 424 S. Commerce. It is there that they have built their permanent studios and shop, as well as significant gallery space where they host shows for fellow artists and themselves.



401 N. First Street, PO Box 348, Lindsborg, KS 67456 (785) 227-2220 sandzengallery@gmail.com www.sandzen.org Gallery Hours: Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.