

Return to Paradise

Celebrating Walter Byck and Marijke Byck-Hoenselaars' thirty year legacy of visionary leadership and community engagement through art and sculpture.

BRIONA HENDREN



Finding Balance
42" x 120" x 120"
Stainless steel
2025

Similar piece pictured here.

It was a gift to know Walter Byck in the final years of his life however small and infrequent. I had the pleasure of working with him from time to time as the curator for the Voigt Family Sculpture Foundation for the last several years. It amazed me how he was still driving around the winery grounds even in his old age. I'll miss the sweet moments with him walking through Marijke's Grove together talking of his plans for the trails, where the next sculpture he wants to place will go. I loved listening to his reflections on art, and the long arc of his life's work. Walter moved through the world with a deep sense of purpose and curiosity, and I always felt that the sculptures placed across Paradise Ridge were a part of that. They are living, evolving extensions of his vision.

He had a way of making time slow down. We'd stop at benches along the trail, and he'd speak about his love for sculpture, about artists and their stories, about the land and the community he built with such care. Those quiet moments, seated beside him, watching the light shift through the trees left a lasting impression on me. He believed in beauty, in conversation, in making space for contemplation.

For "Return to Paradise", I've created a sculptural meditation bench in his honor, an offering of stillness and memory, nestled in the landscape he so deeply cherished. It is a place to pause and reflect, and for those who knew him a place to remember Walter, and to feel the echo of his legacy in the wind, the trees, and the art that continues to live among them.

BIO

Briona Hendren is an interdisciplinary artist whose work is an ongoing exploration of psychology, memory and time, as it relates to identity, society and nature. Through the use of repetition, sculpture, site specific interventions, printmaking and performance, she dives into biomorphic architectural re-imaginings of memory by unearthing entangled patterns of personal narratives.

Briona received her BFA in Sculpture and Museum & Gallery Methods from Sonoma State University. In addition to her art practice, Briona is a curator for the Voigt Family Sculpture Foundation, Operations Manager for the Pacific Rim Sculptors, as well as the Metal Arts Director for Chimera Arts & Makerspace.

Her work has been on view throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles, New York, and internationally. Her work can be seen at the Luther Burbank Center for the Arts, (Santa Rosa, CA), Pepperwood Preserve (Santa Rosa, CA), Ives Park (Sebastopol, CA), and SOMO Village (Rohnert Park, CA).

Recently, Briona completed a collaborative interactive art installation commissioned by the City of Santa Rosa through Kimzin Creative and the "A Future Worth Planning For" project; Journey to the Future is a social art project as a part of the city's 30-year strategic plan (the General Plan Update) focusing on the dreams of Santa Rosa youth as they were asked to envision the possibilities of the city they call home in the year 2050. With data collected through world building workshops facilitated by Briona and artist Erika Lutz, voices of SR youth are heard and their visions will be directly implemented into the city's 30yr strategic plan.

Notably, Briona was one of five selected artists to receive a \$30,000 grant from the Pa'lante Artist Grant Program. This grant was made possible with funding from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and programmatic partnership with the Center for Cultural Innovation. The Pa'lante Artist Grant Program is a community-led grant initiative of LA ASAMBLEA, a new collective by/for Sonoma County BIPOC & QUEER artists + co-conspirators, collaboratively led by consultant groups Kimzin Creative, On the Margins, and the Asesores (a group of diverse, local arts and culture workers).

Briona continues to work on a number of private commissions, developing a traveling foundry (more to be told soon on this!), as well as building out her new shop and studio space in south Santa Rosa, CA.

Artworks are for sale. For inquiries, contact Jeff Nathanson jhnathanson@comcast.net or 609-510-4236.

Price for Finding Balance: \$15,000

brionahendren.com