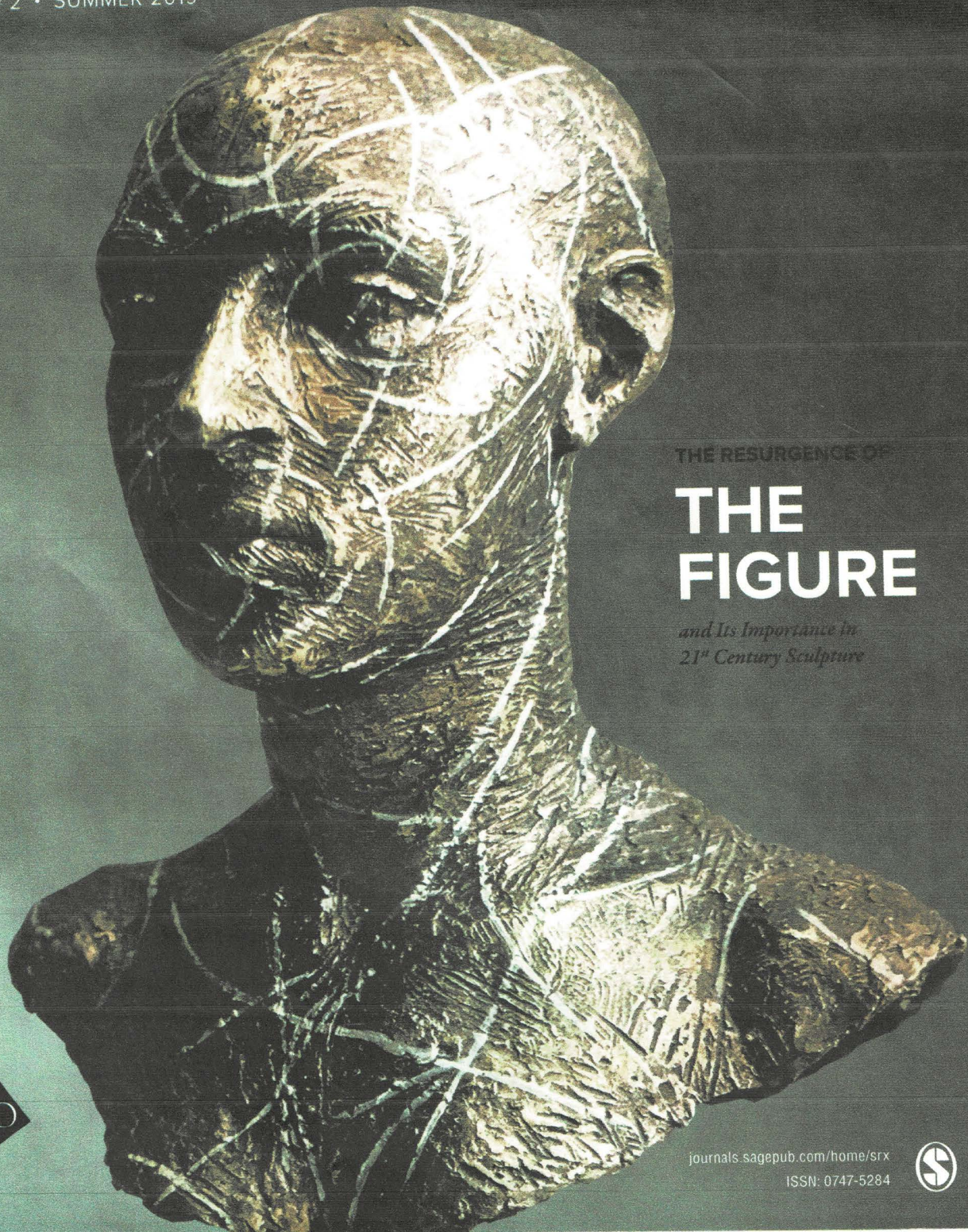


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THE RESURGENCE OF

THE FIGURE

*and Its Importance in
21st Century Sculpture*



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SCULPTURE & PUBLIC POLICY

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS
BY PAUL RICH



FROM THE PUBLISHER
ON **SETTING SAILS**
BY DANIEL GUTIERREZ-SANDOVAL



THE RESURGENCE OF **THE FIGURE** AND ITS
IMPORTANCE IN 21ST CENTURY SCULPTURE
BY GORDON ALT



EVANGELOS FRUDAKIS
(1921-2019)
BY MARGARET NICHOLSON



AN INTERVIEW WITH
NEIL ESTERN, FNSS
BY JOHN SISCO



THE COLLECTION:
AN EXHIBITION BY MEMBERS OF
THE NATIONAL SCULPTURE SOCIETY



THE **TUCK LANGLAND** COLLECTION:
A BIOGRAPHY IN SCULPTURE AT THE
MIDWEST MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART



THE WILD AND WONDERFUL
SCULPTURES OF **KENT ULLBERG** AT
THE ART MUSEUM OF SOUTH TEXAS



TEXAS SOCIETY OF SCULPTORS
MEMBER **KEN LAW** CHOSEN FOR
AUSTRALIAN EXHIBIT



CONTROVERSY IN THE
SAND SCULPTURE WORLD
BY LUCINDA WIERENGA & DAMON LANGLOIS



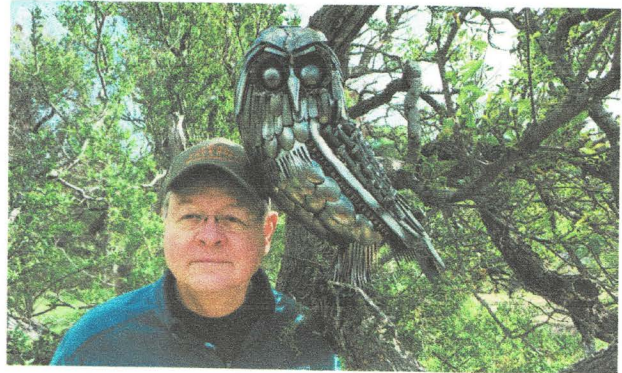
ON THE COVER

Some Thoughts on the Human Head by Tuck Langland. 1985. Tombasil (white bronze).

KEN LAW

MEMBER OF THE TEXAS
SOCIETY OF SCULPTORS
SELECTED FOR EXHIBIT
IN AUSTRALIA

Photos courtesy of Ken Law



Off the coast of South Australia lies a remote island of pristine wilderness—a nature paradise sought out by adventurous travelers from around the world. This natural wonderland is home to an abundance of marsupials, breathtaking coastal waters, outstanding native bird life and 4,000 human residents. Kangaroo Island is Australia’s third largest island and it is quickly gaining global attention as a “must see” place to visit.

Kangaroo Island residents have a passion for art and group of local “Islanders” have spent the past 2 years building the Kangaroo Island Sculpture Trail. This remarkable trail is positioned on 4.5 hectares of dunes overlooking Hog Bay—the beach at the heart of Penneshaw, the little town where the ferry docks. The one-mile trail winds through the dunes and features lookouts, steps, boardwalks, seating and scenic views with a surprise at every turn. The grace and form of ancient blackthorn trees, the majestic ravine where a larger than life pedestrian swing bridge has been built, and the ghost gum tree that sits atop a rise are some of the features. Nature and its various forms have been interpreted with a range of sculptural and landscape elements, comprising natural materials, found or reclaimed objects, or materials sympathetic to the site. The area is also home to a significant population of tamar wallabies, Rosenberg goannas, and more native birds than can be named.

After some years of planning, the project was brought to life with Australian federal funding and the support of the Kangaroo Island Council. The energy and passion of community volunteers has been boundless. Each one is passionate about the environment, their community and the project. Their energy and commitment has not waned—from trimming the trail, to carting tons of limestone rocks and revegetating the area with over 1,000 trees and other native plants.

Worldwide sculptors are currently submitting their ideas to install various forms of sculptural artwork into the Kangaroo Island Sculpture Trail. Among these talented artists is Texan, Ken Law.

Over the past 10 years, Ken and his wife Carol has been traveling to Kangaroo Island to their son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter who decided to “sea-change” from Austin, Texas. Ken has been inspired and motivated by the natural beauty that Kangaroo Island has to offer and submitted a design to create: *The Watcher*. This is a sculpture inspired by the native boobook owl, which nests on his son’s bushland property and calls its distinctive hoot throughout the night.

The Kangaroo Island Sculpture Trail Arts Acquisition Panel were delighted with Ken’s submission and were unanimous in their decision to commission the boobook owl, welded from found objects, which is Ken’s signature sculptural style. Ken has dedicated his work to his granddaughter who is indeed a true “islander” as she was born on Kangaroo Island.

Ken discovered his artistic sculpture talent late in life. In 2008, he took his first art welding and metal sculpting courses from Austin Community College where he pursued a Certificate in Art Welding. He creates his sculptures from a variety of spoons, knives, forks, chains, spark plugs and other treasures many of us consider junk. Ken serves on the board of Texas Society of Sculptors and exhibits regularly in Texas galleries. Most of Ken's work is through private commissions.

So, a Texas sculptor has found a home for his beautiful work on a remote South Australian island. Walking through the winding path, you will look up into a native blackthorn tree, and nestled into limbs you'll find Ken's *The Watcher* peering at you through large spoon eyes and a beak fashioned from a knife handle. ●

If you are interested in learning more about the Kangaroo Island Sculpture Trail, please visit for more information:
www.theislanderonline.com.au/story/5456853/kangaroo-island-sculpture-trail-taking-shape-at-penneshaw

If you are interested in learning more about Ken Law's work, please visit: www.whitehawkart.net

The Watcher by Ken Law.

