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UH ART COLLECTION GROWS WITH INSTALLATION OF ‘FLOW’

Houston, Jan. 14, 2013 – The University of Houston’s newest addition to its public art collection is hard to miss.

The fluid-like, amorphic creation called “Flow” hangs from the ceiling inside the Health and Biomedical Sciences Building. Comprising 54 panels made of steel and white PVC mesh, the uniquely designed creation is the work of Richmond, Va.-based artist Kendall Buster.

Buster wanted to create an organic-looking piece that somehow reflected the College of Optometry, which is housed in the building, said Mike Guidry, the curator of the Public Art Collection for the UH System.

“She started thinking about eyes and how they are mainly fluid and so she wanted to make something that kind of had this fluid look about it but was very abstract, so that’s how this artwork came to be,” Guidry said.

The university commissioned her to do the art early last year. After the design and construction phases wrapped up, the piece was installed by a team of professionals over a four-day period, finishing on Dec. 13. It hangs over the staircase on the building’s west side.

In 1966, the university established a Percent for the Art program, in which 1 percent of the construction budget for every new building goes toward funding art, for either that specific building or other buildings on campus. “Flow” was paid for using funds from that program, Guidry said.

The artwork is one of close to 300 diverse pieces housed and displayed at the University of Houston campus. System-wide, the total is close to 450.
Among the pieces that will be installed on the campus in the coming months is a sculpture by former UH faculty member Luis Jimenez, which will be placed in outdoor green space near the Cougar Woods Dining Hall. New York artist Brian Tolle is creating a piece that will be installed in front of Cemo Hall, and a creation by Brooklyn artist Nathan Carter will be placed at the new Cougar Place residential facility, which is scheduled to open in the fall.

About the University of Houston

The University of Houston is a comprehensive national research institution serving the globally competitive Houston and Gulf Coast Region by providing world-class faculty, experiential learning and strategic industry partnerships. UH serves more than 40,700 students in the nation’s fourth-largest city, located in the most ethnically and culturally diverse region of the country.