

Dear Committee,

My proposal is for the 36 x 30 foot wall in the new visitor center on the campus of the University of Houston. Having been a Houstonian for 15 years, I feel a major connection to the city, and I count it as a great honor to have been offered the opportunity to present an idea for the committee's perusal. What strikes me about this large transitional communal area is the amount of light that is allowed to enter. Because of the expanse of windows, there is a sense that the outside is part of the inside. I want my proposed piece to not only play off of this idea of light and growth but also connect to themes of family, education, legacy, and the promise of a better more colorful future.

My piece is called "LEGENDS", and it is a 36 foot tall flat plexi-glass tree. The plexi will be cut to the contours of the tree shape, and the details will be printed directly onto the plexi. The tree is a central symbol in my practice, and I feel that it perfectly articulates the familial nurturing aspect of the university. Weaving in and around the branches and trunk of the tree, are colorful bands with words on them. This word is "LEGENDS", and it jumped out at me as a mantra of power and hope. I chose this word because it resonates triumphantly and bespeaks the legacy of the school. "LEGENDS" also beckons to the school's future graduates to achieve new heights.

I chose many different colors for the winding bands because of the diverse concerns of the university. Houston is the most cosmopolitan city in the United States, and this diversity is certainly echoed in the make-up of the student population.

The bands of color allude to the past, present, and future of each student as they embark on their education. By mimicking the various winding roads that students take to arrive at higher learning, the piece becomes a kind of road map. "LEGENDS" talks about the present in the sense that being "present" in the educational experience is it's own kind of winding journey. And of course, the future is discussed through the work's multiple pathways. The role of the university is to open these roadways and illuminate the possibilities. By incorporating these themes and inviting these poetic comparisons, "LEGENDS" represents the myriad of directions that life can take!

"LEGENDS" acts as a sort of family tree. Many people find like minded groups when they become part of the collegiate atmosphere. Over the course of years, these groups become an extended family. The tree is a symbol of these various communities that overlap and become a unified network.

I've given you several breakdowns of the word "Legends" and how it resonates both metaphorically and poetically, but there is but one more important association to make note of. There is a character central to my painting mythology called Mound # 1, the Legend. He is the center of my painted universe and one that exudes an air of hope and represents long-standing ideals. He lives in the forest and his

infrastructure/skeleton is shaped like a tree. So this proposal resonates with me on a very personal level and is a natural outgrowth of my painting practice.

In drawing up the proposal, an endlessly complex and engaging design is what I was after. I want people to find their way into the work and enjoy the puzzle of finding their way out of the work. I want it to be something that people are excited to return to for repeat viewings. I want it to be a work that never gets old. I want "LEGENDS" to not only be the destination, but also the journey.

thank you for your consideration. I appreciate it.

sincerely,

Trenton Doyle Hancock



