

# Patrick Mehaffy

Patrick Mehaffy was born and raised in Southeast Texas and the mysterious bayous and palmetto swamps he explored as a boy remain a significant influence on his work.

After moving to New Mexico 1980, he was hired as a writer and consultant for a Native American-owned tribal consulting firm. During that employment he decided to pursue a career in art and began working in a home studio.

Mehaffy's first exhibition of note was in 1986, in a collaboration with neon artist Jan Beauboeuf commissioned by the Santa Fe Arts Council, *Art in the Streets* series. Several of Mehaffy's life-size plaster figures, lit by Beauboeuf's elegant and surprising neon, were installed behind the large street windows of a defunct barbershop in the derelict De Vargas Hotel (now the renovated St. Francis Hotel) in downtown Santa Fe. The following year, Mehaffy's plaster figures were chosen by curator Susan Zwinger for inclusion in an *Alcove Show* at the Art Museum of New Mexico, and he began showing regularly after that.

During his career Mehaffy has had fifteen solo and two artist exhibitions of note, and been included in more than fifty group exhibitions in museums and galleries. His work has been sought for the permanent collections of sixteen public institutions in seven states, including the North Dakota Museum of Art, Art Museum of New Mexico, and the San Luis Obispo (CA) Museum of Art. Additionally his work may be found in private collections across the US, as well as in Europe and Australia.

Mehaffy prefers to use humble found materials creating pieces that suggest timelessness, the pentimento of previous use, and purpose, if not meaning. Many of his pieces incorporate dirt into the final surface.

In addition to his work in the studio, Mehaffy has designed theater sets for Sonya Bezubka Dance, Resource Theater Company, Ironweed Productions, and Theater Grottesco, all in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

In 2014 Mehaffy was an invited artist-in-residence with Theater Grottesco in Bogotá and Popayán, Colombia. He is currently set designing for Theater Grottesco's new production, PIE.

Mehaffy lives and works in Santa Fe, with his wife the writer Kita Mehaffy.