

John "Jack" W. Chaffee
Exhibit theme "AUGURS and AUGURIES"
April 21, 2020

STAUNTON AUGUSTA ART CENTER
May 8, 2020 - June 20, 2020

BIOGRAPHY

BORN: Huntington, WV, 1931

EDUCATION: BS, Physical Anthropology/Gross Anatomy, UNC, Chapel Hill, NC 1948-'52
Art Student's League, NYC 1956

MILITARY SERVICE: USAF, Korean War, 1952-'56

EXHIBITIONS: CT, KY, MD, MI, NB, NC, NY, OH, PA, VA, WV

AWARDS: Michigan Arts Council Fellowships, 1972, 1976, Detroit, MI
North Carolina Arts Council, Visual Arts Fellowship, 1987

HOBBIES: History; Cognitive Psychology, Math

THEME

Theme of the exhibition: "AUGURIES & AUGURS"

AUGURIES: signs foretelling what will happen in the future, an omen.

AUGURS: men/women who seek to divine the significance of past and current phenomena, as clues to prepare for coming events.

Our present moment in history is one of Toynbee's "time of troubles": an episode of rapid change, of uncertainties about meanings, about portents, about future consequences of past and present decisions. We find ourselves pondering, seeking guidance. Tho' limited by incomplete knowledge; our past experience urges us to fear that the consequences of our predictions shall prove inadequate, even catastrophic.

Two sculptural treatments are presented: humans in the throes of pondering; "objects" which though abstract, AUGURS may imbue with significance suggesting, if one is attuned, behaviors that will; we hope, guide us in meeting the challenges of events.

MATERIALS

All but two of the sculptures are reliefs, cast in Hydrostone, a very hard and dense proprietary compound of plaster and Portland cement. The sealed and painted casts are mounted on wooden backs, fitted with wire bails for hanging.

The two STRIDER pieces are free-standing 3-D works. They are cast in Hydrostone, sealed and painted.

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