



ART from the ashes
Exhibition to benefit the Lost Pines Region
April 28 – May 5
Austin, Texas

In September of 2011, the most destructive wildfire in Texas history raged through Bastrop County, TX. The Bastrop County Complex Fire destroyed 1,667 homes, destroyed 33,033 acres and claimed two lives. The blaze devastated the region's signature Loblolly Pine population and further compromised the habitat of the endangered Houston Toad.

In April of 2012, Southern California non-profit **ART from the ashes** (AFTA) takes its mission to Texas to support the **Lost Pines Recovery Team's** conservation and restoration efforts in the Lost Pines Region of Bastrop County with a benefit exhibition, which will take place at the historic Starr Building on West Sixth Street in Austin, Texas.

The exhibition, presented in conjunction with **Big Medium**, will showcase over 70 works of art donated by Texas based artists and ART from the ashes. In AFTA's spirit of "Support. Inspire. Create. Renew," works featured will incorporate materials salvaged from fire site locations in Bastrop County. This diverse spectrum of mediums will be further enhanced with the inclusion of a unique art-science exhibit that will explore the creative ways in which artists have depicted fire ecology through the ages; "Works On Wood" an installation created by Bastrop County's youth utilizing reclaimed Loblolly pine; and a series of special event programming.

LPHCP Administrator, Roxanne Hernandez says, "We are grateful to have AFTA's support in generating desperately needed funds to restore the uniqueness of the Lost Pines ecosystem. These funds will be used for reseeding native grasses and wildflowers, planting loblolly pines and hardwoods, and controlling soil erosion that is threatening the community's infrastructure and private property. AFTA recognizes that healing the landscape is a vital component to our overall recovery, and that creating beauty from destruction will help heal the human spirit. We are thrilled that the Lost Pines Recovery Team is the recipient of AFTA's first ever support outside its home state of California."

Contributing Artists: Leon Alesi, Stella Alesi, Bale Creek Allen, Peggy Anderson-Mapes, Jill Bedgood, Joan Bohls, Susi Brister, Debra Broz, Max Butler, Monique Capanelli, Stacy Conde, Shannon Curfman, Edgar Diaz, Laura Dugan, David Dunham, Cassandra Emswiler, Joy Feuer, Mary Fischer, Brooke Gassiot, Hayley Gillespie, Leah Godfrey, Joshua Goode, Louis Greco, Jesse Hartman, William Heath, Roxanne Hernandez, Melanie Hickerson, Peggy Jo Hilburn, Jessie Johnson, Pat Johnson, Kelly Johnston, Mona Kasra, Chris Klink, Surin Maryn Vesoett, Jon Langford, Suzanne Lewis, Shea Little, Keith Lorcher, Carol Lyon, Peter Mangan, Revi Meicler, Aaron Michalovic, Raina Michalovic, Marjorie Moore, Kandra Niagra, Amanda Overton, Jamie Panzer, Brian Phillips, Randall Reid, Karol Rice, Rebecca Roberts, Debbie Sager, Barbara Samuelson, Nina Savill, Carol Schumacher, Russell Smith, Sharon Smith, Jessica Stone, Lisa Studier, Kenny Trice, W. Tucker, Wendy Wight, Jon Windham, Michael Yates

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April 28th – May 5th with opening reception on April 28th
121 W. Sixth Street, Austin, TX

For more information about ART from the ashes and to find out how to contribute to the AFTA Lost Pines Recovery fund, go to www.artfromtheashes.org

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About ART from the ashes (AFTA):

ART from the ashes (AFTA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to support communities devastated by natural disaster through the creation of art. In the spirit of "Support. Inspire. Create. Renew" artists create one-of-a-kind works of art utilizing materials reclaimed from disaster site locations, which are then exhibited in a benefit exhibition. Proceeds support the affected community to aid in their recovery process. In the wake of devastation and destruction, these works of art symbolize one's ability to renew, rebuild and persevere. AFTA's inspiration stems from the desire to help heal and reconnect communities as they face challenges and hardships in the aftermath of natural disaster. The efforts of ART from the ashes are supported by contributing artists, volunteers, sponsors and donations.

The Spring 2012 benefit to support the restoration of Bastrop County's Lost Pines Region, will mark ART from the ashes' sixth benefit exhibition since its inception in 2007. <http://www.artfromtheashes.org>

About Lost Pines Recovery Team:

The LPRT is composed of local, state and federal agencies with comprehensive knowledge of the Lost Pines ecosystem. The LPRT's objectives are to, assess the condition of the area's natural resources; develop Best Management Practices (BMPs) to address resource issues; share this information with private property owners; and, assist private property owners by providing technical assistance and resources for financial assistance to implement BMPs on their property.

About Big Medium:

Big Medium is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization based in Austin, Texas, dedicated to supporting visual arts and artists in Texas by exhibiting innovative artists in the Big Medium gallery and project space; offering affordable studio spaces; and organizing programs such as the annual East Austin Studio Tour, the Texas Biennial, and now the West Austin Studio Tour. www.bigmedium.org

About Jon Langford, our exhibition logo artist:

Jon Langford is a founding member of legendary British rock band the Mekons. A native of South Wales, Langford now lives in Chicago. He continues to play and record with the Mekons, as well as The Pine Valley Cosmonauts, Skull Orchard & the Waco Brothers, to name a few. His multi-layered paintings take imagery from old country music publicity photos and sheet music and envelope them in a haze of ironic nostalgia. He describes his painting technique thusly: "Long process of layering, scraping, minute attention to detail. Basically, I create a very unstable surface with acrylics and pastel on top of each other and work on top of that with Sharpies, felt pens, white out, gunk, snot and whatever comes to hand."

<http://www.yarddog.com>

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