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4 Almost everyone is familiar with the majestic **Sam Houston Monument** by **Enrico Cerrachio**, pointing the way for his men to go to battle. The monument was a gift from the Women's City Club of Houston, who believed that our city should have a statue of its namesake and hero. They raised the money and commissioned the sculptor to create it. Climbing the steps will give you a better awareness of this great work of art. Can you imagine what Sam Houston was thinking as he galloped into battle? (Look for another sculpture and a painting of Sam Houston downtown in City Hall.)

5 Artist **Victor Salmones**, creator of the bronze sculpture entitled **Cancer...There Is Hope**, is known for his ability to capture a sense of movement and emotion in his work. Located near Hermann Park, this sculpture portrays people of many ages looking into or walking away from a spiral of squares. What do you think Salmones was thinking when he created this sculpture and decided on its title? How do you feel when you look at it? (You can see *Leapfrog*, another sculpture by Salmones, in the lily pond at the Houston Zoo.)



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7 The bronze statue of **Christopher Columbus** by **Joe L. Incrapera** is located in Bell Park, across from the Italian Cultural Community Center. It was donated to the city by the Federation of Italian-American Organizations of Greater Houston. Many of the artworks in the City's collection were given to us by other countries as gestures of friendship. Read the bronze plaque at the foot of the sculpture to find out what Columbus is carrying in his satchel.

8 Posed in front of Jones Hall is a graceful sculpture entitled **Dancer** by **Marcello Mascherini**. The Houston Ballet performed for many years in this building. Everyone who sees this sculpture on the plaza will know that artistic performances take place inside Jones Hall. Mascherini's sculpture is more than seven feet tall—much taller than most dancers. Why do you think he made the *Dancer* so tall?

9 If you've never pushed the red button beneath the Preston Street Bridge downtown, you're in for a surprise. Artist **Dean Ruck** created **The Big Bubble** after learning that Buffalo Bayou needed more air in the water. Pushing the button causes a pump to force an eruption of air to surface, creating The Big Bubble in the bayou. The pump is also on a timing system so that it will go off automatically, surprising people as they pass by. Ruck didn't think of his creation as art but as "an occurrence, an event, a happening." He wanted people to push the button and watch the water hit the banks and ripple back. "It creates a sort of visual poem," he said, "and people talking about it do the same thing—telling their memories and experiences of it, they ripple out to other people." Who will you tell about The Big Bubble?



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6 **Fleming Park Bird Totem** by native-born Houstonian **Fletcher Mackey** is located in Fleming Park on Sunset Boulevard. Residents of the neighborhood commissioned the piece in 1991 and later donated it to the city. Years ago, Mackey visited Vancouver Island and spent some time in cemeteries where certain types of totems are traditionally placed. "I also saw large osprey nests on top of telephone poles on the roads," he said. "They looked like a strange kind of artwork to me except they weren't done by an artist—they were made by birds. That's what made me decide to include birdhouses in my totems." Are you surprised to see a birdhouse in a work of art?



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For a detailed map showing the locations of all the art highlighted in this article, visit www.HoustonFamilyMagazine.com

Margaret Miller is Director of Communications at Houston Arts Alliance. To see more of the City's art collection, visit www.houston.tx.gov/municipalart.