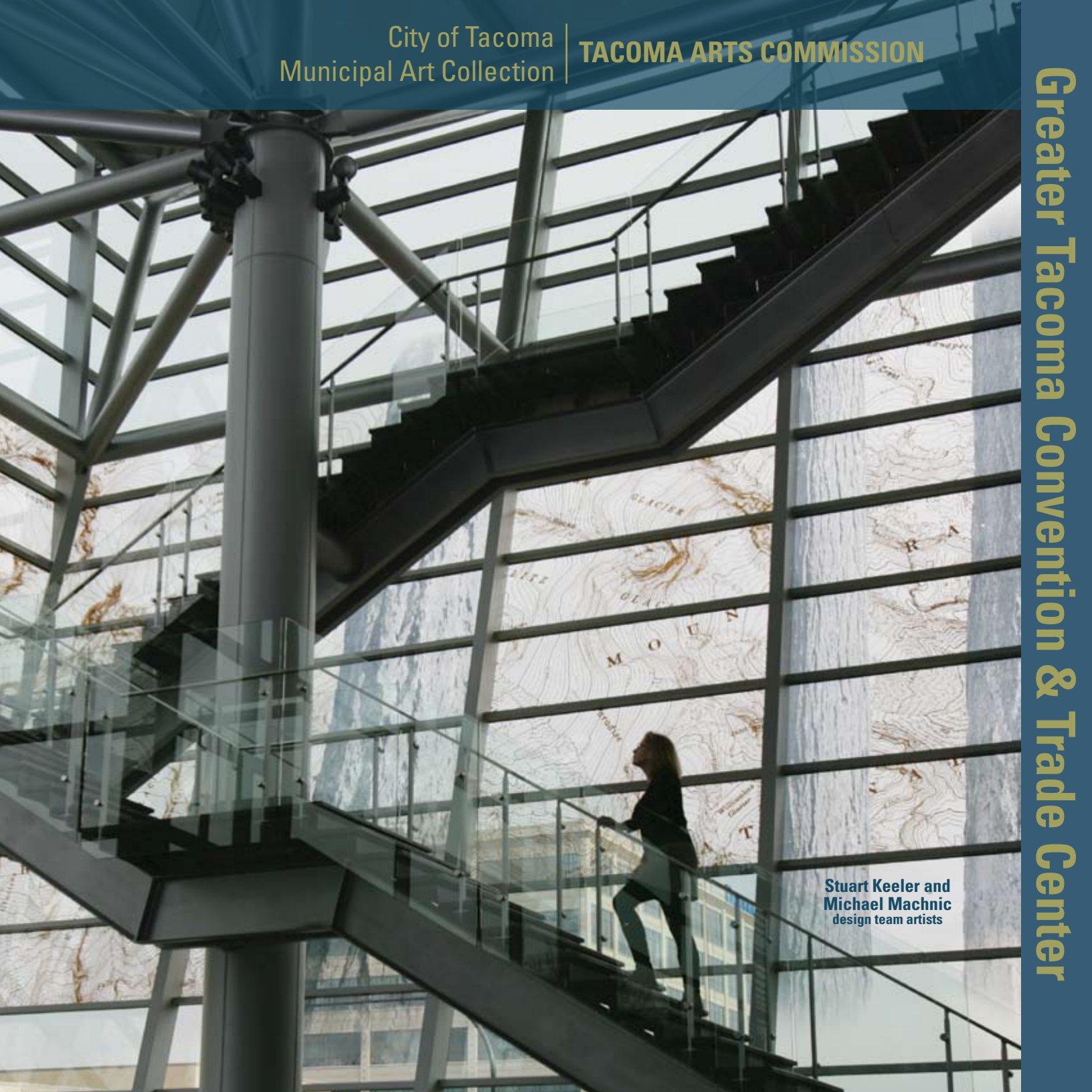


City of Tacoma  
Municipal Art Collection

TACOMA ARTS COMMISSION

Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center



Stuart Keeler and  
Michael Machnic  
design team artists

## Apotheosis <sup>2A</sup> & <sup>2B</sup>

**Artists:** Stuart Keeler and Michael Machnic

**Materials:** Reclaimed old growth timber, stainless steel cable, vitreous enamel on glass.

**Dimensions:** Glass installation is 2300sf; 72 insulated glass units 7 suspended timbers span 60' and are 24' x 1' x 7" each.

*Apotheosis* is a Greek term meaning the 'elevation to sacred status'. In this signature, multi-media artwork, Keeler & Machnic poetically illustrate the journey of old growth timber from pastoral to industrial as they transcend the mortal world to their final place, in the heavens on Mount Rainier. The seven timbers, reclaimed from the 90 year old warehouses that populated the site ascend toward the NE corner of the facility into the architectural feature called the projection box. Wrapping this prominent corner is the iconic Mount Rainier rendered within the architectural glazing that wraps the façade – the USGS Topographic map is the scientific abstraction of the mountain as seen from above. This piece honors Tacoma's pre-history, industry, and hope for the future.

The imagery on the glass is a three-part silk-screen process upon the interior face of the insulated glass unit. The vitreous enamels are kiln fired to become integral to the glass. To create the artwork, Keeler & Machnic teamed with international art glass manufacturer Franz Mayer of Munich, a 143 year old company located in Germany.

The timbers were hand hewn by J. Michael McGuire of the Fort Nisqually Living History Museum. He volunteered his time and expertise to remove the layers of paint and age with hand tools typical of the settlers to this region and by doing so, added a layer of history embraced in tradition.

# Apotheosis



## Seeded Forest 1

**Artists:** Yuki Nakamura & Joseph Miller

**Location:** First level platform (Commerce & 15th)

**Materials:** Epoxy Terrazzo, pulled glass cane, cast glass, natural minerals

**Dimensions:** ~ 630 SF

*Seeded Forest* is an artist-designed terrazzo floor that conceptually complements the signature installation "Apotheosis" created by Stuart Keeler and Michael Machnic. In this setting, the terrazzo, designed in muted greens with inclusions of minerals, pulled glass cane, and silvered glass, resembles the forest floor replete with germinating seeds, pine needles and shiny, rain coated rocks.

Yuki Nakamura and Joseph Miller are Tacoma artists who were paired with 3rd generation terrazzo installer David Francheschina of General Terrazzo to implement their designs and gain experience creating public art.



## Lovesick Walls 3

**Artist:** Alex Schweder

**Location:** Ballroom Level Restrooms

**Materials:** Porcelain, epoxy, caulk

**Dimensions:** 6'8" x 30" x 4' 7"

*Lovesick Walls* was created during a residency at the acclaimed John Michael Kohler Arts Center (JMKAC) in Sheboygan, WI. The work is made with the same materials and methods that create standard bathroom fixtures at the Kohler Factory. Blurring the line between utilitarian and decorative objects, these two bathroom stalls are transformed by porcelain china walls becoming additional fixtures, enveloping the user.

This exciting partnership is the first one between JMKAC and a public agency, the City of Tacoma.



## Municipal Art Collection Pieces Re-sited

### Vernal Equinox 4

**Artist:** Kenneth Callahan

**Date:** circa 1975

**Dimensions:** 53 1/2" x 162 1/2"

**Materials:** Oil paint on canvas



Vernal Equinox is an abstract, biomorphic image with curving lines on a muted ground of blue and beige with overtones of yellow, green and grey depicting the grandeur and violence of the Northwest landscape.

### Sanctity of Early Form 5

**Artist:** Guy Anderson

**Date:** 1980

**Dimensions:** 72" x 96"

**Materials:** Oil on paper mounted on wood



Sanctity of Early Form reflects the artist's deep love of this region's natural beauty and depicts universal themes of life and death, birth and regeneration.

### Flower for the Tacoma Dome & Proof 6

**Artist:** Andy Warhol

**Date:** 1982

**Dimensions:** 48.25" x 48" and 40" x 43"

**Materials:** Serigraph on paper and acetate



These pieces were Warhol's 1982 proposal for public art at the Tacoma Dome. Had this piece been selected, the flower would have been painted on the roof of the dome making it the largest Warhol in history. While his proposal was not selected, it has become a favorite throughout the world in design reproductions.

# Artists biographies

## **Stuart Keeler and Michael Machnic**

Collaboratively Keeler & Machnic celebrate the public realm by creating intimate details within a sculptural gesture of scale.

Interdisciplinary artist Stuart Keeler received his MFA from the Art Institute of Chicago, was nominated for a Robert Motherwell Foundation Award and has exhibited nationally and internationally. He was a 2002 Artist in Residence at Pilchuck Glass School.

Combining architecture and studio work, Michael Machnic engages the public with his concerns of the built environment. Mr. Machnic was a resident at the John Michael Kohler Art Center, has exhibited nationally and received numerous awards. He continues an ongoing public project in Chicago, a series of visioning workshops with the 1st Ward neighborhoods redefining themselves amid rapid urban revitalization.

Together Keeler & Machnic have completed public artworks for Safeco Field, 4Culture and Phoenix Valley Metro Light Rail.

## **Yuki Nakamura and Joseph Miller**

Yuki typically uses ceramic to create installation pieces that relate to physical space. She received her MFA from the University of Washington and her BFA from the University of Art and Design in Tokyo, Japan. She is a recipient of many awards including: the Tacoma Artist Initiative Award, Artist Trust Fellowship, Pilchuck residency, and a Pollock-Krasner grant. Her work has been

exhibited throughout the Puget Sound and recently in France.

Joseph Miller received a BA and MA from Central Washington University and an MFA from Alfred University in New York. His work is based on the relationship/interaction between people and the environment. Miller is also a recipient of a Tacoma Artists Initiative Award. He is the founder of M-Space, Tacoma's premiere glass arts facility.

## **Alex Schweder**

Alex Schweder is the 2005 Arnold W. Brummer Rome Prize recipient in Architecture. Schweder has completed 2 residencies at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center and is represented by Howard House in Seattle and Richard Urbach Architecture in New York. His work was featured at Art Basel by Art Metropole in 2004 and Parsons School of Design in 2005.

He received a MA in Architecture from Princeton University in 1998.

## **Michael Brophy**

Born in Portland, Oregon and a 1985 graduate of the Pacific Northwest College of Art, Michael Brophy has shown extensively in the Pacific Northwest. He is the recipient of multiple awards including the Fellowship for Individual Artist from the Regional Arts & Culture Council of Portland, two Juror's Awards from the Portland Art Museum a Pollock/Krasner Foundation Grant, and a Western States Arts Federation NEA Fellowship. Brophy's work is included in such collections as the Hallie Ford Museum of Art at Willamette University,

the Metropolitan Arts Commission in Portland, Oregon, and the Portland Art Museum. A traveling retrospective of his work, 'The Romantic Vision of Michael Brophy,' was featured at the Tacoma Art Museum in 2005.

## **Kenneth Callahan 1905 – 1986**

Born in Spokane, Washington, Kenneth Callahan was a self-taught painter and sculptor known for his abstractions based on natural forms of the Northwest region that became recognizable as part of the 'Northwest Mystics.'

## **Guy Anderson 1906 – 1998**

Guy Anderson, was also a key member of the group of painters called the 'Northwest Mystics' that included Mark Toby, Morris Graves, and Kenneth Callahan whom he met in the 1930s. This movement brought a mutual interest in influences from ancient spiritual philosophies and Northwest Coast Native American iconography.

## **Andy Warhol 1928 – 1987**

Born in Pittsburgh, PA, he graduated from the Carnegie Institute of Technology before he moved to New York in 1952 where he became a commercial artist and strong proponent of the 'pop art' movement. He used many different media from serigraphy to film and pioneered the development of photo-mechanical silkscreen where an enlarged photographic image is transferred to a canvas and inked from behind, the method he used in creating his mass-media imagery.

## New Acquisition

### 7 The Royal Court

*Artist:* Michael Brophy

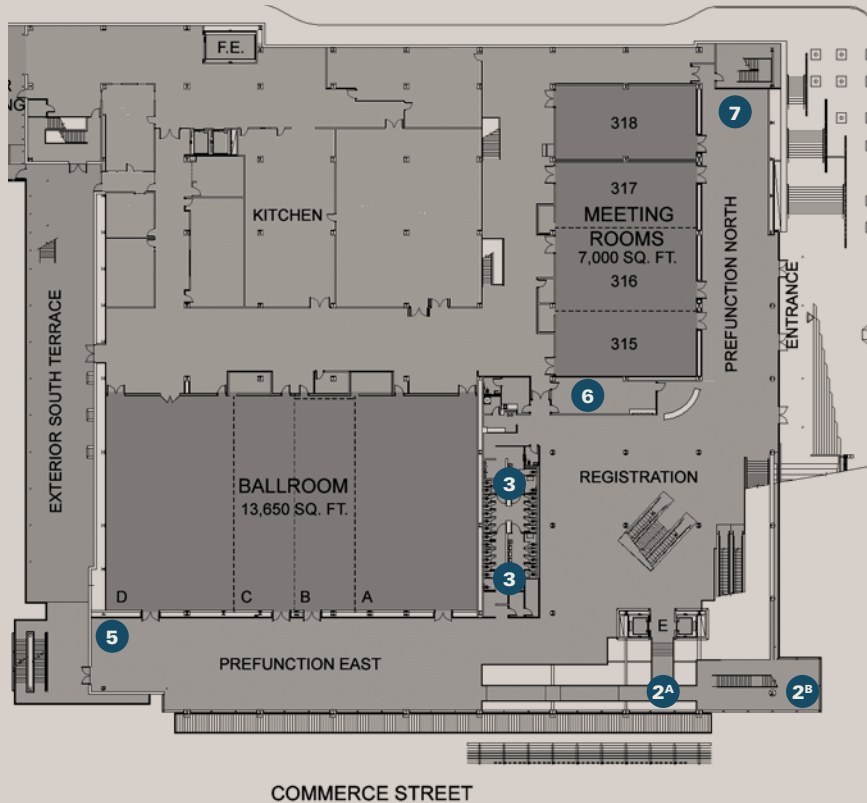
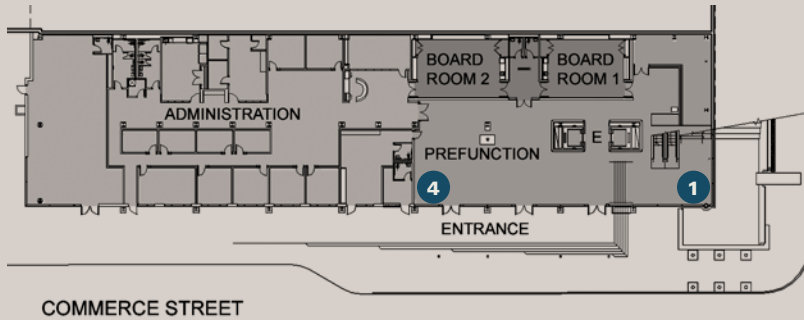
*Date:* 2004

*Dimensions:* 91" x 260"

*Materials:* Oil on canvas



This massive triptych is representative of Brophy's larger body of work concerning human interactions with, and impact on, the landscape. This piece was selected for its strong relationship to the concepts established by Keeler & Machnic for the art in the facility. The central panel of *The Royal Court* triptych depicts the Great Forestry Pavilion, built entirely of unprocessed old growth logs, from the 1904 Lewis & Clark Centennial Exposition in Portland. It is flanked on each side by two portraits of massive stumps, the size of which pay tribute to the impressive power of nature but whose outer skin bears the scars of human infliction – burn marks, gouges into which loggers' springboards would have been inserted, and hacked off roots and limbs. *The Royal Court* was acquired in 2006 through a generous contribution from KeyBank. Support was also provided by Laura Russo Gallery and the Tacoma Art Museum.



## Supporting Partners

### John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, Wisconsin

The John Michael Kohler Arts Center is a not-for-profit organization established in 1967 for aesthetic and educational purposes. Its mission is to encourage and support innovative explorations in the arts and to foster an exchange between a national community of artists and a broad public that will help realize the power of the arts to inspire and transform our world.  
[www.jmkac.org](http://www.jmkac.org)

### Fort Nisqually Living History Museum, Metro Parks

Fort Nisqually is a living history museum derived from a Hudson's Bay Company outpost built in 1833. J. Michael McGuire is a master restorer utilizing all the techniques of the time to recreate the Fort and keep the methods of construction consistent with the era in which it was originally built.  
[www.fortnisqually.org](http://www.fortnisqually.org)  
 253-591-5339

### TopoZone.com

The United State Geological Survey map of Mount Rainier was provided by [TopoZone.com](http://TopoZone.com).

### Photo Credits

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 Royal Court – Bill Bachhuber

Mulvanny G2 and Krei, architects



City of Tacoma  
 Community and Economic Development Department  
 Arts Commission

For more information about the Municipal Art Program contact Amy McBride, Tacoma Arts Administrator at 253-591-5192 or e-mail [amcbride@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:amcbride@cityoftacoma.org)



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