

OUR ART OUR REGION OUR TIME

After the Humans Went Away

33" x 12" x 24"

Sculpture made from
used Amazon shipping boxes

\$2,000

Melissa Milton

MelissaMiltonArt.com

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Bio

Melissa Milton sculpts with clay and/or varnished cardboard, paints with acrylic paints on canvas, and hand draws digital art. Melissa's art pieces have been exhibited in several Northwest Arkansas curated galleries, including the Walton Arts Center, the Fort Smith Regional Art Museum, the University of Arkansas' Faulkner Performing Arts Center, Terra Studios, Fenix Arts, Art Ventures, Local Color Studio Gallery, The ANA Gallery, and The Art Gallery at NWA Mall. Her artwork has also exhibited at the Fayetteville Public Library, the Bentonville Public Library, the Rogers' Chamber of Commerce's Experimental House, and the lobby of the Rogers, AR Aloft Hotel.

Melissa's art has been published in British Vogue, British GQ, Studio Visit, and American Mensa magazines. Her artwork has also illustrated poetry in the book "Living Large", was chosen as the cover of the 2022 Dairy Hollow Echo Writer's Anthology, and illustrated the 2019 Holiday Card for The Dysautonomia Support Network charity.

Melissa won a 2023 City of Fayetteville, AR Public Art competition resulting in her artwork being one in a series of six art pieces projected upon the side of a seven story City building for the holidays. She won First Place for Mixed Media category in the 2021 Art of Possibilities Exhibit, sponsored by the Courage Kenny Foundation. She was also awarded a 2018 Rare Artist Award in Washington, DC, sponsored by the Every Life Foundation.

In addition to being available via her art website, MelissaMiltonArt.com, her art pieces are sold at The Fort Smith Regional Art Museum Gift Shop (Fort Smith, AR), Terra Studios (Durham, AR), and The Art Gallery at NWA Mall (Fayetteville, AR). Melissa lives in her hometown of Fayetteville, Arkansas with her husband, Michael. They enjoy their friends, family and pursuing their hobbies and interests in wonderful Northwest Arkansas.

Artist Statement

Melissa has been experimenting for two years with developing techniques for creating sculptures from the used Amazon shipping boxes that land on her doorstep. They are varnished inside and out, for both aesthetic and preservation purposes.

"After The Humans Went Away" illustrates a tale Melissa imagined of humans asking AI to protect the planet. AI determines that the best way to protect Earth is to make the humans go away. The AI spreads to inhabit machinery, including robots, to make the goal of eliminating humans happen. Here we see the end result: A sweet looking robot (whose body shape resembles that of a human toddler) admiring a bird perched on its arm. The bird seems just fine with the humans gone. The Artist's juxtaposition of a sweet visual image depicting a dark story is intentional.