

Angler Fish Mask
40 x 40 x 57 inches
Mixed Media Sculpture
NFS



Susan Clifton

Bio

I was born in Arkansas and grew up here, but have lived many places in my life, returning to Arkansas to live most recently in 2019. Trained as a sculptor and earning my MFA from the University of Georgia, I have worked in many media. Competitive exhibitions and gallery exhibits were part of my early life, and I was supported by various residencies with the Georgia Council for the Arts, Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, and the Neighborhood Arts Center in Atlanta. I was given a position as an art teacher, and I supported my work, my family and myself with that income for many years. More recently, my work has been exhibited in neighborhood parades in Atlanta, GA and in Fayetteville, AR, where volunteers don my large box-based masks and march in a group to the pleasure of young, old and all between. The Inman Park Festival Parade, The East Atlanta Strut and LantaGras Parade have all given *The Big Mask Project* awards for these performances. Parades like these have been curtailed in the last months, but I plan to continue to perform in them as it again becomes possible.

Artist Statement

Sculpture requires movement. As a sculptor, I have always enjoyed this facet of the challenge. In my work, I have tried to pull the viewer to engage by encouraging them not only to move around the sculpture but to look inside it. Some of my earliest work was mixed media booths a person could enter and play with. Later, clay and bronze sculptures were of houses and boxes with built-out interiors, some with lights for better viewing of the things inside.

When I began making big box-based, paper maché carry-sculptures, I wanted the people who would carry them to be able to interact with the people viewing them, rather than hiding the face or body of the bearer under gauze or costumes. The first look at one of these sculptures is at the character it represents, but the second look is into the sculpture to the face of the person carrying it. While these carry-sculptures are not intended as gallery pieces, the most recent one, made in Fayetteville in 2020 for the Fayetteville Mardi Gras Parade, is built over a child's stroller for my granddaughter, and I believe it can appropriately be exhibited as a stand-alone sculpture.