

DAVID CARGILL biography

Born in 1929 in Huntsville, Texas
Resides in Beaumont, Texas

EDUCATION

- 1946-1948 Studied pre-med at Rice University, Houston, TX
- 1948-1951 Began studies at Pratt University, Brooklyn, NY
- 1952 Bachelor of Arts in Industrial Design, Pratt University, Brooklyn, NY
- 1955 Master of Fine Arts in Sculpture, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 *David Cargill: Life is a Long Way*, Dishman Art Museum, Lamar University, Beaumont, TX
- 1990 Dishman Gallery, Lamar University, Beaumont, TX
- 1974 Beaumont Art Museum exhibition, Beaumont, TX
- 1971 *David Cargill*, Valley House Gallery, Dallas, TX
- 1968 Exhibited at Belgian Pavilion, HemisFair’ 68, San Antonio, TX

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 *He Said/She Said: They Spoke with One Voice*, Figurative Works by David and Patty Cargill, Dishman Art Museum, Lamar University, Beaumont, TX
- Four Artists, Three Generations*, IDK Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ
- 2005 *Cargill: Father / Graver: Daughter*, Art Museum of Southeast Texas, Beaumont, TX
- 1972 Four-person exhibition, Longview Museum & Arts Center, Longview, TX
- 1968 Sphere of Art invitational showing, Hemisphere, San Antonio, TX
- 1951 Patty & David Cargill, Beaumont Art Museum, Beaumont, TX

SELECTED AWARDS & PUBLICATIONS

- 2020 “David Cargill’s Long Way”, Texas Monthly
- 2016 “Man Made: Seasoned Sculptor David Cargill”, VIP of Southeast Texas
- 2001 “Solace in the City”, Texas Highways
- 1998 Religious Art and Architecture Design Award from the American Institute of Architects for religious commissions at the Chapel of St. Basil, University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX
- 1958 Images reproduced in House & Garden
- 1957 Images reproduced in Life Magazine

SELECTED PUBLIC & PERMANENT COLLECTIONS

- Art Museum of Southeast Texas, Beaumont, Texas
- Beaumont Central Public Library, Beaumont, TX
- Beaumont Civic Center, Beaumont, TX
- Chapel of St. Basil, University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX
- Children’s Medical Center, Dallas, TX
- Dallas Zoo, Dallas, TX
- Edison Plaza Museum, Beaumont, TX
- Entergy Plaza Building, Beaumont, TX
- Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Beaumont, TX
- Lamar University, Beaumont, TX
- Ohmstede Machine Works, Beaumont, TX
- Oak Cliff Savings & Loan, Dallas, TX
- St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica, Beaumont, TX
- St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, Port Neches, TX
- St. Jude Thaddeaus Catholic Church, Beaumont, TX
- St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church, Beaumont, TX

Front: David Cargill, *AMSET President’s Club Award #6*, 1989, cast bronze and wood, DC.1989.06

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Art Museum of Southeast Texas
500 Main Street
Beaumont, Texas 77701
(409) 832-3432 • www.amset.org



The Lighter Side David Cargill

On view June 5 - September 12, 2021

She's been gone for almost half a century now, but when I first met David Cargill he had a standard poodle, Raphael, who was the best outfielder I've ever seen. David had given her such a love for the game of catch that no matter how far out of reach it seemed she'd jump high in the air, twisting and somersaulting to grab that ball in flight, and then land back on her feet with it clutched in her mouth.

Like all of Cargill's poodles through the years, Raphael was named for a painter from centuries past. If you run your eye along the art books that fill up the floor-to-ceiling pecanwood shelves he built to hold them, you'll find their names: Botticelli, Vigée le Brun, Hieronymus Bosch. The seamless joinder of art and life is everywhere you turn. Cargill's admiration of animals flows into his sculpture; there are dogs, birds, bulls, a camel, a rhino—almost all of them in some relation to his favorite animal, the human.

When I say favorite I don't mean he prefers a civilized intelligence; if that was it he'd stick with poodles. I mean the beauty, the grace, the passion of humans viewed from a distance. Here a child rides the rhino; here a line of dancers balances on point, frozen forever in a fluid moment that could have lasted only a fraction of a second. Here a Vietnamese family crawls

from their bomb shelter and embraces after surviving a nightlong barrage. Here a man waist-deep in floodwater tows a family—and a dog—on a boat through Houston floodwaters.

One of Cargill's most enduring themes is pairs of lovers, in the most romantic sense of the word. Over and over he has captured variations on the shape of two humans embracing, usually unburdened by clothes to let the pure human lines emerge.

Cargill went to great lengths to master his craft. He went to New York to get his art degree from Pratt Institute, and earned an advanced degree from the nation's top-ranked arts school, Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan. As a working artist he traveled to Italy and spent time at a foundry learning the metal casting process, an education that has allowed him to have hands-on control of every step of the creation of his bronzes.



Photo courtesy of the artist



David Cargill, *Kipling*, n.d., cast bronze, photographs: Art Museum of Southeast Texas



David Cargill, *Embrace II*, n.d., cast bronze, photographs: Art Museum of Southeast Texas

Not that he's limited to bronze. He has sculpted in a whole range of media to honor what he calls the special nature that emerges from each type of material: Italian marble, cast bronze, forged iron, stainless steel, brass, silver, lead, clay, exotic woods, stained glass, even synthetic materials like epoxy and styrofoam.

His late wife, the painter Patty Cargill, was an integral part of his work, and her influence lives on. The two of them were frank critics of each others' art, dedicated far more to excellence than salving each others' pride. "I'd always think I was done," Cargill will say, "until Patty would tell me how it looked like it was coming along well."

Take some time to stroll through the life's work that makes up this exhibit. Feel the immense amount of time, effort and talent it took to let each sculpture emerge. Look for the humor in each piece. Most of all, look for the love. You'll find it.

Christopher Graver



David Cargill, *The Rescue*, 2018-2019, cast bronze, photographs: Art Museum of Southeast Texas