

ART OF LIVING

BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2023 SECTION C



Photos by Andy Coughlan/The Enterprise

Finding 'kinship' in art, nature

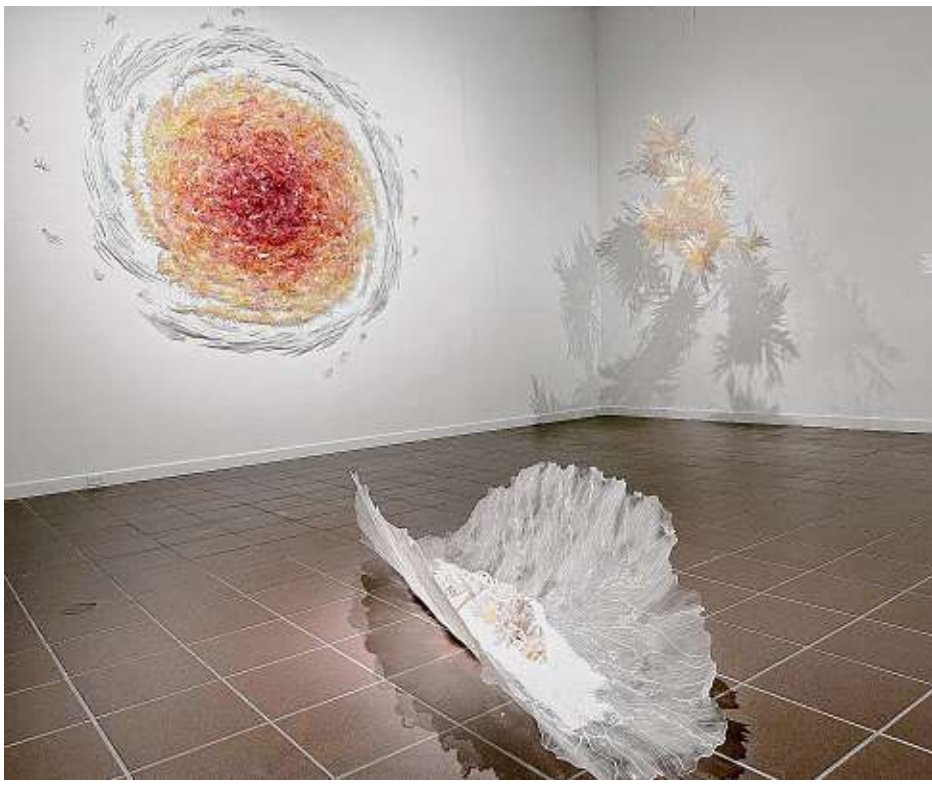
By Andy Coughlan
CONTRIBUTOR

The Earth's ecosystem is a delicate balance. We find ourselves in a tipping point with climate change threatening to upset that balance as we shift perilously close to losing the beauty of the world around us.

Margaret Smithers-Crump's exhibition "Kinship," on display at the Art Museum of Southeast Texas through June 18, is the perfect illustration of the fragility and beauty of our world.

The sculptural works are large, delicate-looking creations that magnify the delicate parts of our ecosystem that we take for granted, such as lichen and fungi, plankton and coral.

The pieces have a fragility that makes onlookers feel that to even breathe on them would do damage. Yet ironically, they are quite durable as they are created from recycled Plexiglas and polycarbonates, which



An installation shot of Margaret Smithers-Crump's exhibition "Kinship."

Smithers-Crump cuts and paints, carefully attaching the pieces together. Unlike glass, she said during a talk at the opening reception on April 14, the Plexiglas can

be repaired. One wishes the environment could be repaired with such ease.

The exhibition is organized thematically, with the right chamber relating to terrestrial forms

and the left relating to oceanic.

"Mycelium Mapping" reminds one of the cordyceps from the hit TV show, "The Last of Us." *Museum continues on C7*

(Left) Margaret Smithers-Crump stands in front of her sculpture "Code Blue," part of her exhibition "Kinship," on display at the Art Museum of Southeast Texas through June 18. (Above) "Speechless" by Margaret Smithers-Crump.

Legal Notices

Legal Bids & Proposals

Legal Bids & Proposals

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Notice to Contractors of the following work for The City of Lumberton
PROJECT: Proposed New City Multi-Purpose Facility at, 836 North Main Street (Tx. Hwy 96) Lumberton, Texas 77657.

RECEIPT OF BIDS: Bids shall be submitted on the unaltered **Bid Proposal Form** furnished by the owner and enclosed in an envelope sealed with the project name in the left hand corner of the envelope. Sealed proposal will be received by the City Secretary of the City of Lumberton, located at 836 North Main Lumberton- Texas 77657 until **2:00 P.M. Monday May 22, 2023.**

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 2:15 P.M. in the Office of the City Secretary, 836 North Main Lumberton, Texas. Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informality in bids received and to accept the bid most advantageous to the City.

SCOPE OF THE WORK: The project consist of furnishing all labor, materials, and equipment and performing all work required to provide new pre-engineered metal structure, on new concrete slab and supporting parking area. Included are new interior metal stud partitions, drywall, plywood panels, trim work, cabinets, painting, Hollow metal door frames and metal doors, fabricated iron framing, Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing, Etc. as shown in the Contract Documents. To include, ADD Alternates for Impact glass and framing system for exterior of bldg. Demolition and removal of existing building, Slabs, asphalt parking area on construction site. Removal and relocation of covered parking area at rear of Police Dept. to allow for concrete parking expansion for the new facility. Asphalt parking at front of city hall will be replaced with new concrete surface. Roadway at rear of city hall will also be replaced with new concrete surface.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE: A MANDATORY Pre-bid meeting will be held **Thursday May 4, 2023 @ 1:30 P. M. (local time)**, the City of Lumberton Council Office, 836 North Main Lumberton, Texas.

BID REQUIREMENTS: A cashier's check or certified check on a State or national bank in the State of Texas payable without recourse to The City of Lumberton, or an acceptable Surety Proposal Bond, in an amount not less than (5%) of the largest possible total bid, including consideration of alternates, must accompany each bid as a guarantee that, if awarded the contract, the bidder will promptly enter into a contract. No bidders may withdraw a bid within thirty (30) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

BIDDING DOCUMENTS: Plans and Specifications may be obtained from **The City Secretary of the City of Lumberton, located at 836 North Main**, Lumberton, Texas. plan available: **Monday April 24, 2023. A Fee of \$75.00** will be required for one set of plans and Specifications. The Deposit is non refundable.

Plans and Specification may be viewed at: **City of Lumberton, City Secretary Office, 836 North Main Lumberton, Texas, Ph: (409) 755-0031**

Plans/Spec will also be available at contractors cost through:

Whites Reprographics
795 Fannin st.
Beaumont, Texas 77704
Ph: (409) 833-5966

/s/ Steven Clark
Steven Clark, City Manager
City of Lumberton, Texas

Publication Dates: 2 consecutive. Week ends
April 23, 2023 | April 30, 2023

LEGAL NOTICE Invitation for Bids

April 30, 2023

Notice is hereby given that competitive bids will be received by SpawGlass Construction Corp. for Package No.2A of the Lamar Institute of Technology Workforce and Allied Health Training Center located at 855 E. Lavaca St. Beaumont, Texas. Plans and Specifications may be obtained from the following:

Electronic Files:
https://spawglass-my.sharepoint.com/:f/p/shawn_thurman/EpSouzvRwrVLgkG5c_wtXcBEINkBgLmalyhrSKZOCBqQ?e=cx8nJb

Documents for Purchase:
Triangle Blueprint (409) 835-6810

Package No.2A Scope:
Structural Steel Fabrication, Structural Steel Erection

Bid Time/Date: 2:00PM, Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Submit Bids via Email to: shawn.thurman@spawglass.com Mail/deliver bids to: SpawGlass 350 Pine Street, Suite 310 - Beaumont, TX 77701
Submit questions to: shawn.thurman@spawglass.com

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, for the Neches 2nd and Nolte Pumping Plants Windows and Roof Mounted Ventilation Replacement Project will be received by Lower Neches Valley Authority in their office at 7850 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont, Texas 77708 until 2:00 pm local time on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read. The Work generally consists of the removal and replacement of existing windows and roof mounted ventilation at the Neches 2nd and Nolte Pumping Plants. Replacing of the existing windows at the Neches 2nd facility includes replacement of existing 6X8.2 C-channel grills supporting the windows.

Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a unit price basis.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is: Lower Neches Valley Authority, 7850 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont, Texas 77708. Interested parties may contact Duane Browning, P.E., by phone at (409) 284-1146, or by email at duane.browning@LNVA.dst.tx.us.

Bidding Documents may be examined online at www.civcastusa.com. The bidding documents may be downloaded from the website at no cost. Hard copies of the bidding documents will not be sold. Complete sets of Bidding Documents shall be used in preparing Bids; neither Owner nor Engineer assumes any responsibility for errors or misinterpretations resulting from the use of incomplete sets of Bidding Documents. Owner and Engineer, in making copies of Bidding Documents available on the above terms, do so only for the purpose of obtaining Bids for the Work and do not authorize or confer a license for any other use.

A pre-bid conference will be held at 9:00 am local time on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at the LNVA Administration Building located at 7850 Eastex Freeway in Beaumont, Texas 77708. A site visit to the Neches 2nd and Nolte Pumping Plants will be conducted in conjunction with the pre-bid conference.

Bid security shall be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

Undersea musical fun: BCP to present 'The SpongeBob Musical' from May 5

By Andy Coughlan
CONTRIBUTOR

It's just an average day in Bikini Bottom, when suddenly the ground starts to rumble. A volcano is about to erupt. Fortunately, SpongeBob SquarePants and Patrick Star are on the case and set out to save the town. Along the way, the pair get into some wacky adventures and sing

Beaumont Community Players will present "The SpongeBob Musical," a live-action show based on the popular Nickelodeon animated series, beginning May 5. The show, created by Tina Landau with a book by Kyle Jarrow, features songs by various artists including David Bowie, Panic at the Disco, Cyndi Lauper, and John Legend.

Director DeeDee Howell said transferring the iconic cartoon characters to live actors has been an interesting process.

"The costumes are a little different, because you can't have a sponge up there," she said. "But to take the meat and potatoes of what SpongeBob is and have a creative way with it has been a lot of fun to work with, but challenging."

Bailey Jenkins plays



Photos by Andy Coughlan/The Enterprise

Ed Seymour, left, plays Patrick and Bailey Jenkins plays Spongebob Squarepants in Beaumont Community Players' "The Spongebob Musical," which runs May 5-20.

the titular fry cook. It may be a stretch to say it is a part he was born to play (although Jenkins also works at a restaurant), but he said he certainly feels a kinship with the character.

"I watched it when I was very little, it was definitely built up who I am," he said. "I'm very positive, and I think I think that is probably a little bit SpongeBob."

Jenkins said SpongeBob is a simple character *Star continues on C7*



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BEAUMONT
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MUSEUM

From page C5

The sinewy fronds seem to be creeping their way across the wall, the two halves reaching to connect. While the HBO hit TV show is an apocalyptic tale of a world where nature is out of balance, Smithers-Crump asks us to look at the beauty of what will be lost if we do not act.

“Symbiosis” is large circular piece that looks as though we are peering at spreading plants on a microscope slide. One can almost feel the plant’s ever-expanding growth that implies it stretches far beyond the border we can see. Smithers-Crump said fungi can reach out for 100 miles to help trees get nutrients. Removing even one tree, she said, can kill a forest.

Smithers-Crump’s large, swirling pieces refer to the circular nature of life, constantly moving through life cycles. “Oasis” resembles an arial view of a circling school of fish. Smithers-Crump said it represents the abundance of life that can be found in a single drop of water.

On the other side of the gallery, “Code Blue” has a literal net that is increasingly circling the plankton that is so vital to the life of the ocean. The title draws its name from the alarm that sounds when a patient is in urgent need of resuscitation.

Smithers-Crump delicately navigates the line between artistry and activism. Part of being an artist, she said, is to create. But the other part is to be passionate about a message. Her message stems from her interest in the negative impact of deforestation, climate change and plastic in the ocean. By using recycled plastics, she is taking a negative and turning it into a positive. Each part of her art is one less pollutant condemning the ocean (there is an island of plastic the size of Texas that constantly floats around the Pacific Ocean).

“Speechless,” which reaches out from the wall, looks like the organisms that float through the oceans at the whims of the tides. There is a passivity in the ocean-inspired pieces, as if they exist in beauty for its own sake. “Ghost Ship” fea-

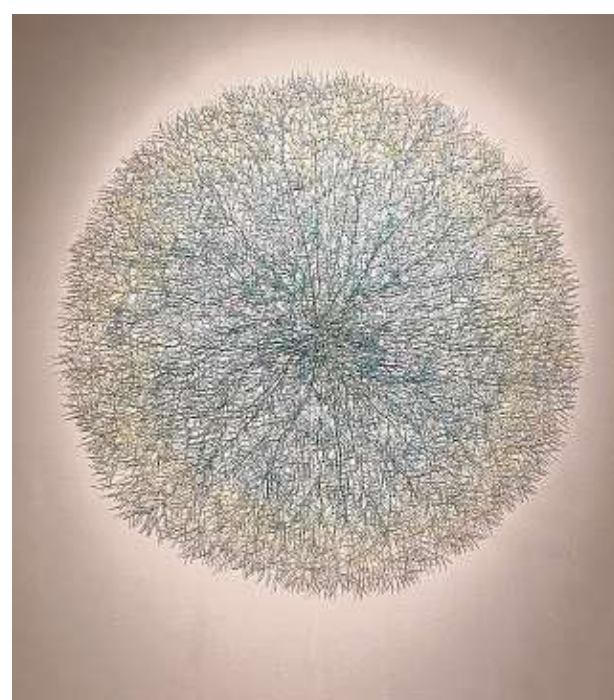


Margaret Smithers-Crump’s “Breaking Point,” part of her exhibition “Kinship,” on display at the Art Museum of Southeast Texas through June 18.

Photos by Andy Coughlan/The Enterprise



Margaret Smithers-Crump stands in front of “Oasis.”



Margaret Smithers-Crump’s “Symbiosis.”

tures an ethereal wave that cradles bleached-out pieces of coral. The coral is beautiful, but it is white death, nonetheless.

“Breaking Point,” set off in a space of its own, features a series of large fibrous hanging balls that remind me of the 1966 sci-fi movie, “The Fantastic Voyage.” The film

features a team of scientists who are shrunk to microscopic size and are injected inside a scientist to repair his brain. At one point they are attacked by bulbous antibodies. The shadows the balls throw on the walls imply that they are multiplying, but also fading into shadows. What is it about this

exhibition that, for all its obvious visual beauty, has a subtext of dread? I don’t think Smithers-Crump would object. While the art stands on its own, the artist said she is also an activist. We should fear that these things will disappear.

The exhibition’s title, “Kinship,” is a clear mes-

sage. We are part of the environmental family” that occupies the planet. We are all interdependent on each other. The planet is not here to serve us. We must consider our role as stewards of the environment that we will pass on to future generations. Plexiglas will last 100

years or more, Smithers-Crump said. If we have to live with it, what better way than to turn it into a thing of beauty — but don’t forget the message. The Art Museum of Southeast Texas is located at 500 Main St. in Beaumont. For more information, visit am-set.org.



Photos by Andy Coughlan/The Enterprise

The show, created by Tina Landau with a book by Kyle Jarrow, features songs by artists including David Bowie, Panic at the Disco, Cyndi Lauper, and John Legend.

STAR

From page C5

who is very dramatic in everything he does. The character is either happy or he’s sad.

“There’s many instances where I’ve had the time and I’ve sat down and been like, ‘How would SpongeBob react to this?’” Jenkins said. “And I realize it’s not that complicated. He’s either happy or sad — or confused. It’s a very one-dimensional character, compared to a human. He’s very, just, he’s SpongeBob. That’s who he is. That’s why he’s a good character fit for a cartoon.”

Just like any role, Jenkins said he is trying to portray the character as accurately as possible, although there are obvious limitations for a human when playing a cartoon character.

“SpongeBob can rip his arms off — he’s done that in several episodes — I can’t do that,” Jenkins said, laughing. “So, the only thing holding me back is what can a person do versus what can SpongeBob actually do? I think I’m playing it as close as I can interpret the SpongeBob character with my own little spice in there.”

Ed Seymour plays Patrick, SpongeBob’s

“There’s many instances where I’ve had the time and I’ve sat down and been like, ‘How would SpongeBob react to this?’”

Bailey Jenkins, who plays SpongeBob SquarePants

starfish best friend. Seymour said it has been three years since he was last in a show and as a fan of the cartoon, this seemed to be the perfect show to return to the stage.

“I grew up with SpongeBob, like it was my day-to-day practically,” he said.

The show captures the feel of the cartoon, Seymour said.

“It’s funny. It’s such a fun show — bright and colorful,” he said. “There’s a lot of jokes, a lot of laughs, and it’s just a really feel-good time.”

Howell echoed Seymour’s sentiments, noting that the show is high energy and enjoyable throughout.

“There’s not a dead part,” she said. “There’s not a part where you’re like, this is dragging. It’s just two hours of pure entertainment.”

Jenkins said the show not just for fans of the cartoon.

“It’s funny,” he said. “There are many things that only adults get. So, it’s for kids, it’s for adults,

it’s for anything in between. People who hate SpongeBob will probably still find this enjoyable.”

Showtimes for “The SpongeBob Musical” are May 5, 6, 12, 13, 18, 19 and 20 at 7:30 p.m., and May 13 at 2 p.m.

BCP is located at 4155 Laurel Ave. in Beaumont. For tickets, visit www.beaumontstages.com.

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