

Mr. Todd Frahm

Class of 1994

Mr. Frahm graduated from Unity High School in January of 1994. He earned a bachelor's of Fine Arts from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1998. He received his masters degree in Fine Arts from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 2002.

Mr. Frahm has exhibited throughout the United States in Arizona, California, Illinois, Missouri, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Tennessee and internationally in Canada and Korea. Mr. Frahm has completed several large public works in Illinois, Missouri and California.

Mr. Frahm is interested in the visual dualities that exist between language and art medium. He combines humor, cynicism and sculpture to subvert the conventional connotations of words and/or materials. His greatest ambition is to leave the viewer with a slightly skewed perception of what they had previously taken as common knowledge. His sculpture of Aesop's story of the Tortoise and the Hare entertains children while exalting the merits of discipline. This sculpture is located in front of the Urbana library.

Mr. Frahm attempts to generate dialogue with his work by incorporating a variety of literature styles within his work. He holds Aesop, Dr. Seuss and Shel Silverstein in the highest esteem. Mr. Frahm feels these masters of metaphor have isolated the most compelling aspects of human nature and made them accessible to all ages. Mr. Frahm strives to explore similar content within his sculpture.

One of Mr. Frahm's highest aspirations is to address content with the simplicity of haiku, the complexity of moral ambiguity and the ability to function on multiple levels and to connect with viewers of all ages. Mr. Frahm attempts to extract the essence of a myth or fable and utilize animal themes to simplify and impose a reexamination of the philosophical and moral dilemmas generated by human nature.