

## **Texas 100: Selections from the El Paso Museum of Art**

Through uncompromising experimentation, Harry Geffert has created a large and unique body of work. In 1980 he established the Green Mountain Foundry and has spent the past 25 years mastering traditional and hybrid casting techniques. *Mantime* is an example of his inventive sculptural technique and vision. Geffert culls from literary sources as well as his own imagination to explore subjects such as the relationship between man and nature.

*Mantime* is a dynamic work full of narrative potential and exploratory qualities. As the viewer approaches the sculpture, an important cast of characters appears. A magical earthbound birth of humankind is on display. Figures are nestled in giant pea pods or climb out of small cocoons and crawl across the landscape. At the top of the sculpture, a group seems to be trying to take control of the world or is it their lives? A solitary figure reaches the water at the center of the scene. In the forefront, a lone, life-size figure is descending downward into space on a child's wagon. The man seems to be seizing his life and letting go of his cares. By forgoing any attempt of control, the world is his to discover.

The plant life is shown in an array of patinas: browns, reds, greens, and yellows. The human figures are given earth tones. The complex color scheme of this imaginary underworld contributes to the surreal, dreamlike and fantastical quality of the sculpture.

At Green Mountain, Geffert has worked with many artists that include Frances Bagley, Vernon Fisher, Joseph Havel, Ken Little and Linda Ridgeway. Geffert studied at New Mexico Highlands University and at the Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. He lives and works in Crowley, Texas.