

**title*****Procession*****artist****Michaela Mahady****Location**

LeBaron Hall Auditorium

**Materials**

Sandblasted and sandcarved glass

**Size**

Twenty-two panels, each 9 x 101 inches

**Date**

2006

**Made Possible by**

Iowa Art in State Buildings Program

**About the Work of Art**

*Procession* depicts Iowa State University's historic heritage as well as its procession toward the future. Campus icons such as Christian Petersen, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Hill, and Helen LeBaron Hilton are represented along side unnamed students. Mahady found inspiration for this Art in State Buildings commission in the works of art by Christian Petersen. She found strength and dignity in his work and tried to replicate similar emotion within *Procession*. Like many of Petersen's murals, the figures are realistic yet simplistic and stylized. The use of glass is particularly important in this piece. Students busily walking through LeBaron Hall, as well as students passing the exterior of the building become part of Mahady's "procession."

Running along the bottom span of the mural is a quote by Mark Twain. It reads, "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." The quote reminds us of the unlimited possibilities that lie within each of us, especially as students working toward dreams of success. This sentiment is further represented by the last image of the mural, a child looking with amazement at a turtle. Again, influenced by Petersen, Mahady illustrated this figure in honor of his sculpture *Marriage Ring*.

*Procession* is a site-specific work of art that brings celebrates the past, present, and future of students, faculty, and alumni of Iowa State University. It seeks to represent where we came from and our current procession toward the future.

University Museums -- Art on Campus Program

Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa

## About the Artist

Michaela Mahady attended the University of Minnesota where she received a B.A. in Studio Art (1973) as well as a M.A. in Architecture (1986). Currently she is a registered architect in Minnesota and Colorado and holds a certificate of interior design. She has been a principle designer with Sala Architects, Inc. of Minneapolis, Minnesota since 1987 and her work has been featured in numerous magazines including *Fine Homebuilding* and *Time* magazine. She has also been featured on PBS for her work with residential architecture. Mahady has nearly 30 years of experience in creating artwork with glass. She and husband, John Pietras, own an architectural glass and mixed media gallery in Stillwater, Minnesota.

## What is Art on Campus?

Iowa State's Art on Campus Collection (public art collection) spans over a century, beginning with the design of central campus by Adonijah Welch, Iowa State's first president. Since the 1930s, Iowa State has commissioned, purchased, and received gifts of art that form the Art on Campus Collection. At the height of the Depression, Iowa State College President Raymond Hughes envisioned that the "arts would enrich and provide substantial intellectual exploration into our college curricula."

From 1955 to 1978, public art at Iowa State and around the country experienced lean years. However, following the establishment of the National Endowment for the Arts and Art in Public Places programs, public art gained nation-wide momentum. In 1978, Iowa passed the Iowa Art in State Buildings law, which today allows for the acquisition of public works of art for the campus. Private and class gifts also continue to be used to purchase public art.



## LEBARON HALL

### *Procession*

Art on Campus accession number U2006.29

Additional information on public art, other Art on Campus information sheets, and Art on Campus maps is available at the University Museums office, 290 Scheman Building, (515) 294-3342, or visit us online at [www.museums.iastate.edu](http://www.museums.iastate.edu)

**This information sheet is intended to be used in addition to viewing the Art on Campus Collection. At no time should this sheet be used as a substitute for experiencing the art in person.**