



"Dragon Dance" by Ron Fleming, whose works go on display Thursday at the M.A. Doran Gallery. Courtesy

Local artists make good, and Tulsa gets to see

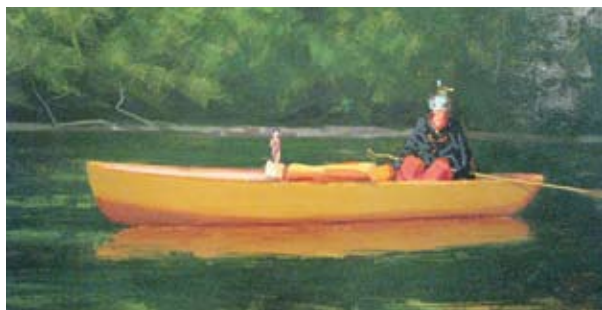
BY JAMES D. WATTS
World Scene Writer

Two of Tulsa's most distinguished artists will have new work on display beginning Thursday at the M.A. Doran Gallery, 3509 S. Peoria Ave.

Ron Fleming is one of the country's masters wood sculptors, whose creations have grown in complexity and artistry from turned-wood vessels to intricately carved objects that are at once

paintings by Bill Rabon. Rabon studied at the University of Tulsa under Alexandre Hogue and began his career as a painter of landscapes, drawing much of his inspiration from his travels through the Southwest.

However, as he writes in his artist's statement, "In 2000 I grew tired of landscapes and began painting abstracts. I have always approached abstract painting (as)



"Pilgrim" by Bill Rabon. Courtesy

organic and unearthly in their beauty. His work is part of the permanent collection of the Smithsonian Institution and the White House.

In recent years, he has begun having some of his original wood pieces cast in lead crystal. The Doran show will have some of Fleming's pieces in crystal along with his wood sculptures.

Environmental abstracts: Also on display will be

an osmosis experiences (drawing inspiration) from being around new environments.

"I believe that much of the same things happened to artists in the 1930s, '40s and '50s in New York (whose art) reflected their environment and reactions to the steel, stone, glass, light and movement of the city."

The exhibit remains on display through Sept. 5.

ask a local

In the studio with Hank

For the past 30 years, Hank Charles has owned and operated his Broken Arrow recording studio Valcour Sound, a favorite of local musicians (tulsaworld.com/valcour).

He's also the father of the brother-sister duo the Red

Alert, and he's played guitar and keyboards for rockabilly legend Wanda Jackson.

Here are five local acts Charles has worked with over the years — and where to see them live.

— MATT GLEASON, World Scene writer



Hank Charles, owner of Valcour Sound recording studio, has collaborated with a wide range of local musicians for 30 years. JAMES GIBBARD/Tulsa World

1. Sam and the Stylees: No matter what kind of music you like, you will enjoy a Stylees show. Composed of great musicians from classic Tulsa bands, this third collaboration will be released Aug. 27 at the Blue Dome Diner.

2. The Brandon Clark Band: One of the best singers around, and a talented band of writers and players. Their album — a mix of Red Dirt, rock and country — is in its second pressing. See them Friday at the Mercury Lounge.

3. Crooked X: I first recorded these young rockers



Forrest French (left) and Jesse Cooper of Crooked X bang their heads at Flytrap Music Hall. STEPHEN HOLMAN/Tulsa World



when they were 11 years old. I'm proud to have my recording of "Nightmare" on the "Rock Band" video game and a cut on their Capital Records album. See them Aug. 29 in Bonner Springs, Kan.

4. Hector Backwoods: This rock trio is tearing up the clubs of Tulsa. Radio-ready with great lyrics and vocals. Check them out Aug. 28 at the Marquee.

5. Delay the Day: I'm in the studio with these guys right now. They are a hard-rock group with a metal edge and cool vocal harmonies. See them on Aug. 29 at the Strike Ax in Bartlesville.

Charles' other suggestions:

Fiawna Forté, Restless Ribbon, Chuk Cooley, Rebecca Ungerman, Milos Fare, Cairde Na Gael, John Sawyer, Cindy Cain, the Pendleton Family Fiddlers, Heat Circle, Finnigans Awake and Bring Down the Hammer.