



OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**MUSEUM of ART**

***Action Abstraction: Sculpture by Bill Barrett***  
**June 2017 – July 2018**

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**Brief Description**

*Action Abstraction* is a year-long display of six bronze sculptures across the Oklahoma State University campus. Created by internationally known sculptor Bill Barrett, the structures exude movement and energy, offering the university community a new opportunity to engage with public art.

**Related events**

[An Evening with Bill Barrett](#): Wednesday, Oct. 18, 5 pm to 7 pm  
An artist talk begins at 4 pm in the Jorns Room on the 3rd floor of the Atherton Hotel. The talk is followed by a reception and an exhibition of additional sculptures at 5 pm in the Atherton Hotel Piano Lounge.

**Link to high resolution images of artwork**

[flickr.com/photos/osumuseumofart](https://www.flickr.com/photos/osumuseumofart)

**Website link to more information**

[museum.okstate.edu/billbarrett](http://museum.okstate.edu/billbarrett)

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News Release | For Immediate Release

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## ***ACTION ABSTRACTION BRINGS PUBLIC ART TO CAMPUS***

**(STILLWATER, Okla., Aug. 7, 2017)** — Displayed across the OSU campus for one year, *Action Abstraction* presents six monumental bronze sculptures by internationally known artist Bill Barrett.

Widely considered one of today's foremost sculptors, Barrett's works transcend the stark aesthetics of minimalism with warmth and humanity. "Barrett's sculptures display forms that exude a swirling energy," said Victoria Berry, OSU Museum of Art Director. "Distinctly American in their directness and lightness, Barrett's sophisticated constructions are balanced through their calligraphic sensibility and abstract references to form."

The sculptures, which arrived in June, are strategically placed across campus to create a convenient exhibition within walking distance from the Student Union. Organized by the OSU Museum of Art, the OSU Public Art Committee, and LewAllen Galleries of Santa Fe, New Mexico, this exhibition is the first in a series planned for the campus over the next few years.

Berry and Steve Dobbs, OSU Landscape Services Director, serve as co-chairs of a nine-member Public Art Committee at OSU. The committee, comprised of a diverse assemblage of community and university representatives, is planning programming to introduce the greater community to the power of public art and how it can complement the life of a university.

One program, [An Evening with Bill Barrett](#), will include an artist talk, reception, and exhibition of additional sculptures. Scheduled for Oct. 18, the event begins with an artist talk at 4 pm in the Jorns Room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Atherton Hotel. The talk is followed at 5 pm by a reception with a display of additional sculptures in the Atherton Hotel Piano Lounge. The event is open to the public, and students are welcome to attend. Admission is free with RSVP to Kelly Bradshaw ([kebrads@okstate.edu](mailto:kebrads@okstate.edu) or 405.744.2780).

During this year, tours of the exhibition will also be conducted by museum educators to provide an opportunity for the OSU Museum of Art to extend its programming beyond the museum walls and enjoy the playful and lyrical bronze sculptures with others.

A map of the artwork locations, along with more information, can be found at [museum.okstate.edu/billbarrett](http://museum.okstate.edu/billbarrett).

This exhibition is made possible in part by the loan of the artworks by Bill and Debora Barrett and LewAllen Galleries, Santa Fe, NM; and through generous support by James Pickel, Jim Vallion; OSU Student Union; OSU Museum of Art Advocates, OSU Museum of Art Founding Patrons and Charter Members; and the OSU/A&M Board of Regents.

### **About the OSU Museum of Art**

For more information about the OSU Museum of Art, visit [museum.okstate.edu](http://museum.okstate.edu) or call 405-744-2780. All exhibitions are free and open to the public. The museum is located at 720 S. Husband Street in downtown Stillwater. Hours: Tuesday through Saturday from 11 am to 4 pm.

*Oklahoma State University is a modern land-grant university that prepares students for success. OSU is America's Brightest Orange. Through leadership and service, OSU is preparing students for a bright future and building a brighter world for all. As Oklahoma's only university with a statewide presence, OSU improves the lives of people in Oklahoma, the nation, and the world through integrated, high-quality teaching, research, and outreach. As America's Healthiest Campus, OSU is committed to the health and well-being of its students, employees and the community. OSU has more than 36,000 students across its five-campus system and more than 25,000 on its combined Stillwater and Tulsa campuses, with students from all 50 states and around 120 nations. Established in 1890, OSU has graduated around 255,000 students to serve the state of Oklahoma, the nation and the world.*





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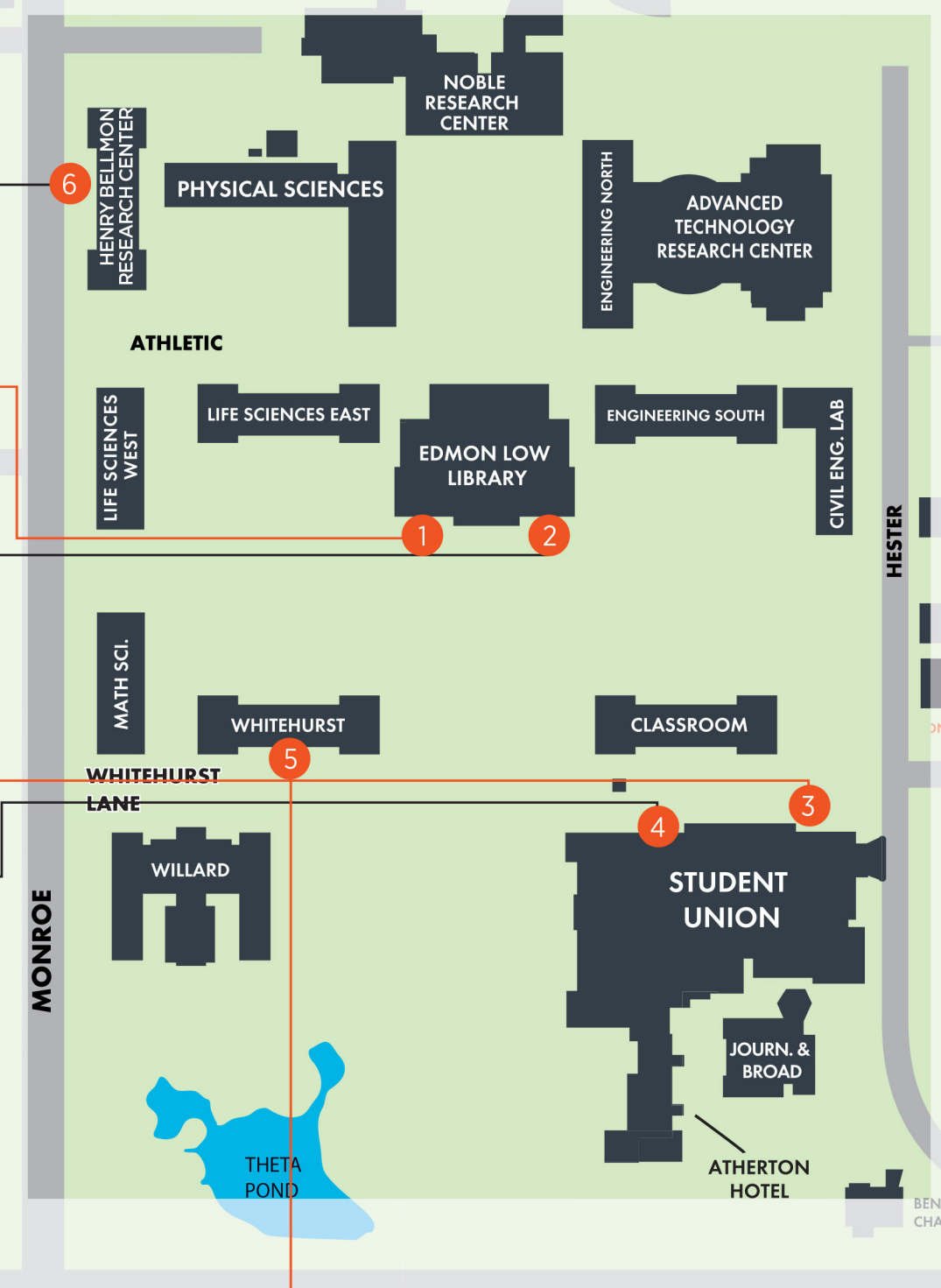
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- 1. *Lexicon*, 2007
- 2. *Sojourner*, 2013
- 3. *Aria (DNA 5)*, 2013
- 4. *Pinnacle XIX*, 2010
- 5. *Monarch*, 2017
- 6. *Bill's Comb*, 2003

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**BILL BARRETT, SCULPTOR**



Bill Barrett, one of today's foremost sculptors, was born in Los Angeles, CA. He earned a BS and an MS in Design from the University of Michigan, and later an MFA from the same institution. Since the mid 1960s, Barrett has been exhibiting his unique metal

sculptures and abstract paintings in numerous solo and group exhibitions in such places as Switzerland, Germany, Bulgaria and Japan as well as in the United States.

Barrett's sculptures of fabricated aluminum, bronze, or steel address the interplay between positive and negative space with grace, elegance, and exquisite balance. His works call to mind the fluid effortlessness of calligraphic strokes and betray a positivism to which many viewers feel drawn. In spring 2011, Barrett's commemorative bronze sculpture *Lexeme IV* was installed in New York City's Finn Square. The work, which combines abstract and representational elements, has been celebrated for its graceful tribute to the tragic terrorist events of September 11, 2001.

Bill Barrett is represented in numerous private and public collections.

**ACTION ABSTRACTION  
BILL BARRETT**

Displayed on Oklahoma State University's campus for a year, the exhibition *Action Abstraction: Bill Barrett* presents six monumental bronze sculptures. Bill Barrett sculptures are known for their lyrical graceful forms that exude an expansive sense of kinesis. Distinctly American in their directness and lightness, Barrett's works are balanced through their calligraphically gestural sensibility and an abstract feeling of fluid musicality. Organized by the OSU Museum of Art, the OSU Public Art Committee, and LewAllen Galleries, Santa Fe, New Mexico, this exhibition is the first of a series of exhibitions planned for the campus over the next few years.

**PLEASE JOIN US OCTOBER 18**

For an evening with Bill Barrett  
Artist talk at 4:00 p.m. in the Jorns Room,  
3rd Floor of the Atherton Hotel

Reception and exhibition of additional sculptures at 5:00 p.m.  
in The Atherton Piano Lounge.

Admission to the event is free with RSVP to Kelly Bradshaw:  
kebrads@okstate.edu or 405-744-2780. Students welcome.



**LewAllenGalleries**



This exhibition is made possible in part by the loan of the artworks by Bill and Debora Barrett and LewAllen Galleries, Santa Fe, NM; the Atherton Hotel and through generous support from James Pickel, Jim Vallion, our Founding Patrons & Charter Members, the OSU Museum of Art Advocates, and the OSU/A&M Board of Regents.

Design by Valerie Kisling and photography by Phil Shockley, University Marketing.

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BILL BARRETT  
ACTION ABSTRACTION

