

Art in the City/Week 9

Running Rabbit



Running Rabbit was created by Louisville artist Bob Lockhart in 1999 and can be found at the Louisville Zoo near the carousel. The sculpture is cast in bronze and measures six feet in length.

Lockhart was born and raised in Oak Park, Illinois, and attended the Art Institute of Chicago. In his youth, Lockhart found a home away from home at the Brookfield Zoo, where he studied and sketched animals that would remain a constant theme in his work as an artist. In 1967 he moved to Louisville and continued a prolific career as an artist and teacher. Lockhart's work is found in numerous private collections as well as museum collections including the Art Institute of Chicago, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Speed Art Museum, and Whitney Museum of American Art. As a professor at Bellarmine University for 40+ years, Lockhart inspired and challenged a generation of artists and numerous professional careers amongst his students.

Rabbits and bunnies have long been associated with the season of spring, of rebirth and playfulness. In folklore from a variety of cultures, rabbits are often portrayed as clever creatures that conjure tricks and mischief. Lockhart himself is a bit of trickster, with many of his works containing hidden symbols and messages, both didactic and sarcastic in nature. Whether animal, human, or a combination of both, Lockhart's sculpted, carved, and drawn creatures capture the same energy of the *Running Rabbit*, springing to life as if startled by the viewer.

In addition to *Running Rabbit*, the Louisville Zoo is home to Lockhart's *Lulu the Potbellied Pig* and *Jackson's Chameleon*. Be sure to visit them at the Zoo this spring!