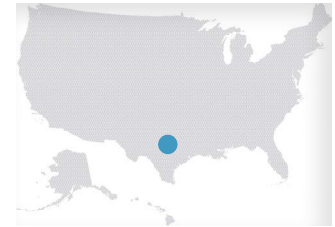






Art and Street Furniture

Stainless Steel Canoe Sculptures



Location	Houston, Texas, USA
Environment	Outdoor
Designer/architect	John Carroll Runnels
Source of information	Houston Chronicle

An artist and sculptor based in Houston, Texas, John Runnels, has made 16 sculptures of boats which he has placed along the Buffalo Bayou in Houston. His latest work has been placed at the Bayou's Crosby Outfall, west of Sabine Street near Allen Parkway and depicts a stainless steel canoe nestled on supports above the Bayou. The artist is a co-founder of MotherDogStudios, and he told the Houston Chronicle that he considers the Buffalo Bayou to be Houston's "birth canal". Among his other sculptures on the Bayou is a boat at Allen's Landing, at Fannin and Commerce streets, where the city's founders landed in 1836. Most of his canoe sculptures are along the Sabine promenade, between Sabine and Bagby streets. Four are on the Sabine Street Bridge, two on either side. They are suspended upside down, as though providing an arched gateway to the Bayou. The atmosphere in Houston is relatively aggressive, bring extremely hot and humid and summer and somewhat cold in winter. Add to this the influence of a salty environment from the coastal region and it becomes clear why the sculptor settled on the use of stainless steel for his art work.

Pictures courtesy of John Carroll Runnels