

## **“Tree of Hope”**

Steel-welded and heat bended, hammered black paint,  
stone, plastic, and Bastrop tree ashes  
39” H x 30” W x 30” D

Trees have always been a source of beauty and inspiration for me. So, when I saw these pieces of steel, in a junk yard in 2014, I saved them knowing that as a metalsmith I could join them together and create a tree someday.

In July 2022 I received a grant from HMAG- (Houston Metal Arts Guild) [www.hmag.org](http://www.hmag.org) after writing a proposal. This proposal was for a refresher welding class and membership (to use their equipment) at [www.txrxlabs.org](http://www.txrxlabs.org)

The ashes came from the Bastrop County Complex fire. It was the most destructive wildfire in state history. The 32,000-acre inferno ignited on Sept. 4, 2011, and burned for 55 days, destroying over 1,600 homes, and killing two people.

**New life and hope do come after devastating loss and pain.**