

“Tree of Hope”

Steel-welded and heat bended, 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 2023 I received a grant from HMAG- (Houston Metal Arts Guild) www.hmag.org after writing a proposal. This proposal was for a refresher welding class and membership at www.txr labs.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.