



Menil Collection receives grant for restoration



John Chamberlain, "Rooster Starfoot," 1976. 2012 John Chamberlain/Artists Rights Society, New York. Menil Collection, Houston, gift of Heiner and Fariha Friedrich. Funded by Bank of America Art Conservation Project. (Photo by Hickey-Robertson, Houston)

Bank of America's Art Conservation Project has awarded a grant to the Menil Collection to fund the restoration of 12 sculptures.

The sculptures are part of a collection of works by American artist John Chamberlain, who passed away in December. Chamberlain was known for his use of industrial materials and found metal pieces, such as car bumpers and metal file cabinets.

"The art conservator's approach is systematic," said Brad Eply, Menil chief conservator, in a press release on the effort, "beginning with provenance research and photo documentation. This helps us understand what the sculpture originally looked like and whether or how it has changed over time."

Through the restoration process, conservators will also be able to study Chamberlain's methods and materials. "We are also gathering as much information as possible regarding John Chamberlain's creative process and how this changed over time," said Eply. "Our goal and the challenge is to successfully

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treat each piece, always being true to John Chamberlain's aesthetic.”

Bank of America's Art Conservation Project provides grants to nonprofit institutions to restore artwork and artifacts with important historical and cultural value. The Menil is among four domestic projects to receive the grant.

“We are grateful for this vital support from the Bank of America Art Conservation Project,” said Menil Director Josef Helfenstein in the release. “This international program helps ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy and experience the full impact of these modern masterpieces.”

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FRIEDMAN BENDA 515 W 26TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10001
FRIEDMANBENDA.COM TELEPHONE 212 239 8700 FAX 212 239 8760