

EAST HAWAII CULTURAL CENTER



# TIGHT HIDE

## KEN LITTLE

EXHIBIT ON VIEW:  
JUNE 5–JULY 30, 2021  
GALLERY HOURS:  
TUESDAY–FRIDAY  
10:00 AM–4:00 PM  
SATURDAY  
10:00 AM–2:00 PM



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As early as I can remember, I knew that I wanted to be an artist. That has remained consistent in my life since I was hand-painting china with my grandmother when I was six years old.

My idea of what an artist is and what they do has evolved a lot. When I was a kid I wanted to animate for Walt Disney. As a young man, I wanted to emulate the western artists like Charlie Russell. In college, I learned of Abstract Expressionism, Pop Art, Conceptual, Process, and Minimalism. Now I guess it's Postmodernism? I think that I have taken something from all these experiences as well as life and more popular culture.

I've lived on the high flat plains of West Texas and the Lower East Side of Manhattan. I've lived in Tampa, Florida and the mountains of Missoula, Montana; upstate New York and the San Francisco Bay area. For the last 30 years I have been living in the hill country of south Texas and San Antonio. I retired from teaching last year, and now spend half the year in South Texas and the other half on the Kona coast of the Big Island of Hawaii.

Artists like Hank Williams, Bob Wills, Thelonious Monk, Buddy Holly, and David Byrne have been as influential to me as Marcel Duchamp, Joseph Beuys, Bruce Nauman, and Eva Hesse. H.C. Westermann, Terry Allen, William Wiley, Robert Arneson, and Jim Nutt are some of my close influences. John Buck, Deborah Butterfield, and Robert Brady are some of my contemporaries.

*These animals are residents of our cityscapes and our psyche. They are 'big game' animals, symbols of the natural uncontrollable landscape, the frontier. They are the true sublime, our subconscious, the dreamscape, the other. They are essential. They are dangerous. They are hilarious. They are gruesome. They are cute. They are trash. They are art.*

Coming off a career as a ceramic artist, I began this series of work in 1979. There was a healthy secondhand store culture in Missoula, Montana, where I was living at the time. I picked up all kinds of objects and things and began to explore. I came across a very abused deer trophy mount. The eyes were missing, and the nose was gone. I decided to “rebuild” this old mount, give it some dignity back. So, I covered his body in the “Lucky” beer cans that the hunters would drink. I sculpted a set of eyes (that looked a lot like mine). When I began to rebuild the nose with an old boot I had.....Ahaaaa!

I was returning the skin to the animal.

So, I began to use shoes, boots and other materials to build these animals. At first, they were very disturbing, a bit Frankensteinian, I thought. But as my friends came over, without exception, they laughed and remarked about “How great it would be to see these animals out in the wild!” I was always a very serious artist, but I learned, over time, to allow pathos and humor to occupy my consciousness.

I have been making these kinds of works for over 40 years. I have also worked in bronze, cast iron, and neon, as well as creating a series of large figurative works fabricated from \$1 bills. Yes, real \$1 bills. But that is another story. This latest series incorporates the Aloha spirit from my home here on the Big Island of Hawaii. I hope you enjoy them.

-Ken

1. **“Jack”** 2020, Mixed Media/Shoes, Belts, Boots, Ties, extension cords, Antlers, Paint, etc. primarily turquoise on a buck deer taxidermist form; approx. 48”H x 14”W x 17”D; Retail Price \$4500.00
2. **“Paul”** 2021, Mixed Media/Shoes, Belts, Hawaiian Shirts, Ties, Belts, extension cords, \$1 Bills, Bible Pages, paint, etc. primarily pink and black on a boar taxidermist form; approx. 38”H x 17”W x 22”D; Retail Price \$4500.00
3. **“Archer”** 2020, Mixed Media/Shoes, Belts, Green Marlin fishing Hawaiian Shirt, Ties, Belts, extension cords, \$1 Bills, Bible Pages, paint, etc. on a boar taxidermist form; approx. 42”H x 19”W x 24”D; Retail Price \$4500.00
4. **“Daryl”** 2020, Mixed Media/Pink left, \$1 bills right, square buckle nose, Shoes, Belts, Hawaiian Shirts, Ties, Belts, extension cords, \$1 Bills, Bible Pages, paint, etc. on a boar taxidermist form; approx. 42”H x 19”W x 22”D; Retail Price \$4500.00
5. **“Willie”** 2020, Mixed Media/Pink/Blue boot face, Shoes, Belts, Hawaiian Shirts, Ties, Belts, extension cords, \$1 Bills, Bible Pages, paint, etc. on a boar taxidermist form; approx. 42”H x 17”W x 24”D; Retail Price \$4500.00
6. **“Bernard”** 2020, Mixed Media/Shoes, Belts, Hawaiian Shirts, Ties, Belts, extension cords, \$1 Bills, Bible Pages, paint, etc. on a javelina taxidermist form; approx. 20”H x 12”W x 14”D;  
Retail Price \$3000.00
7. **“Peggy”** 2020, Mixed Media/Shoes, Belts, Hawaiian Shirts, Ties, Belts, extension cords, \$1 Bills, Bible Pages, paint, etc. on a javelina taxidermist form; approx. 21”H x 12”W x 12”D; Retail Price \$4500.00
8. **“Randy”** 2020, Mixed Media/Shoes, Belts, Hawaiian Shirts, Ties, Belts, extension cords, antlers, \$1 Bills, Bible Pages, paint, etc. on a buck deer taxidermist form); approx. 48”H x 20”W x 20”D; Retail Price \$4500.00

9. **“Coker”** 2020, Mixed Media/Shoes, Belts, Hawaiian Shirts, Ties, Belts, extension cords, antlers, \$1 Bills, Bible Pages, paint, etc. on a buck deer taxidermist form; approx. 48”H x 20”W x 28”D; Retail Price \$4500.00
10. **“Floë”** 2021, Mixed Media/Shoes, Belts, Roller Blade, Ties, Belts, extension cords, paint, etc. on a doe deer taxidermist form; approx. 39”H x 16”W x 18”D; Retail Price \$4500.00
11. **“Bobby”** 2021, Mixed Media/Shoes, Belts, Ties, Belts, extension cords, \$1, paint, etc. on a bear taxidermist form; approx. 22”H x 12”W x 14”D; Retail Price \$3500.00
12. **“Kamapua’a”** 2021, Mixed Media/Shoes, Belts, Hawaiian Shirts, Ties, Belts, extension cords, antlers, \$1 Bills, Bible Pages, paint, wood/wire assemblage “Petroglyph” figures, etc. on a life-size Boar taxidermist form; approx. 34”H x 62”W x 24”D; Retail Price \$14,000.00
13. **“Keiki”** 2021, Mixed Media/Shoes, Belts, Hawaiian Shirts, Ties, Belts, extension cords, antlers, paint, wood/wire assemblage “Petroglyph” figures, etc. on a life-size javelina taxidermist form; approx. 34”H x 62”W x 24”D; Retail Price \$7,000.00
14. **“Joe Ed”** 2021 Hawaiian Rabbit, Mixed Media, approx. 12-15”H x 6-8”W x 10-12”D; Retail Price: \$3500.00
15. **“Dawson”** 2021 Hawaiian Rabbit, Mixed Media, approx. 12-15”H x 6-8”W x 10-12”D; Retail Price \$3500.00
16. **“Mark”** 2021 Hawaiian Rabbit, Mixed Media, approx. 12-15”H x 6-8”W x 10-12”D; Retail Price \$3500.00
17. **“Horned Toad”** 1987; Silicone Bronze edition of 10; 12”H x 17”W x 16”D; Retail Price \$6500.00

18. **“Ape”** 1987; Silicone Bronze edition of 10; 13”H x 10”W x 14”D; Retail Price \$6500.00
19. **“Bear”** 2015 Woodblock Print; edition of 10; 22”H x 30”W; Retail Price \$1000.00
20. **“Butler”** 2015 Woodblock Print; edition of 10; 24”H x 32”W; Retail Price \$1000.00
21. **“Ford”** 2015 Woodblock Print; edition of 10; 20”H x 18”W; Retail Price \$900.00
22. **“Hippo”** 1987; Silicone Bronze edition of 10; 13”H x 10”W x 14”D; Not for Sale: \$6500.00
23. **“Dolphin”** 1988; Silicone Bronze edition of 10; 6”H x 8”W x 12”D; Not for Sale: \$2000.00
24. **“Doe”** 1987; Bronze edition of 25; 6”H x 6”W x 4”D; Not for Sale
25. **“Harry”** 1993; Raku fired earthenware; 13”H x 5”W x 7”D; Not for Sale
26. **“Hare”** 1993; Raku fired earthenware; 10”H x 5”W x 6”D; Not for Sale
27. **“Three Dimensional Sketches”** 2021 (*A respectful and playful approach to the formal aspects of the beautiful, spare, ancient Hawaiian petroglyphs*); Mixed Media; Dimensions vary; Not for Sale.

## Ken Little: Artist's Resume Summary 2021

Ken Little was born in 1947 in Canyon Texas. He was a graduate in the first Bachelor of Fine Arts class at Texas Tech University in 1970. He went on to earn a Masters of Fine Arts at the University of Utah in 1972. Since 1972 he has held tenured positions at major universities, including The University of Montana at Missoula, The University of Oklahoma in Norman. From 1988-2020 he served as a professor of Art (Sculpture) at The University of Texas at San Antonio. He retired as a Professor Emeritus in 2021.

Ken Little is a nationally recognized artist who was granted two Visual Arts Fellowships by the National Endowment for the Arts in 1982 and 1989. Since 1993, he has maintained a working studio and Rose Amarillo, an alternative exhibition space in downtown San Antonio. His work in various media has been shown extensively both nationally and internationally. In south Texas he has exhibited at such venues as ArtPace, Finesilver Gallery, The Southwest School of Art and Craft, and the Blue Star Art Space where he was a board member from 1989 to 1995.

Over the years, Little's work has been featured in over 50 one person exhibitions in national and international venues such as: The Washington Project for the Arts, Washington DC; The Forum for Contemporary Art, St. Louis; Diverse Works in Houston; and The Honolulu Academy of the Arts. His work has also been featured in over 200 group exhibitions at institutions like: The Contemporary Art Museum in Houston; The Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC; and The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Little has completed several public commissions including installations at the Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle Washington; the McNay Museum, Artpace, Hemisfair Park in San Antonio; the Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne Wyoming, the Art in Public Places Program in Austin Texas; and for the City of Cheyenne Wyoming Public Works Program. For more information go to the artist's website [www.kenlittle.com](http://www.kenlittle.com)

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