

# Nasher hones its mission

XChange program marks center's 10th year, fosters interplay between artists and the community

Saturday is a big day in the history of the Nasher Sculpture Center. The Arts District anchor is celebrating its 10th anniversary by launching what director Jeremy Strick calls the first citywide, museum-organized art exhibition in the country.

Nasher XChange is a more than \$3-million endeavor. Its 10 daringly different art projects will celebrate communities as diverse as Pleasant Grove, Vickery Meadow and Oak Cliff while paying homage to the cries of newborn babies in a pavilion in the Nasher garden

## ART NOTES



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large part of the inspiration for Nasher XChange came from the absolutely radical idea that Ray and Patsy Nasher had of placing major works of sculpture at NorthPark, of putting great art in an absolutely unconventional setting."

The late Patsy and Raymond Nasher opened NorthPark Center in 1965. Ray Nasher founded the sculpture center in 2003 and paid the \$72 million needed to build it. The opening of the Flora Street museum made available to an international audience the couple's vast private collection, which, coupled with pieces now owned by the center itself, number more than 340.

"One of the things Ray wanted to do," Strick says, "was re-create some of the experience of his own home and make art available to everyone. But the other part of his legacy is taking art that doesn't belong just in a private home and putting it outside the museum, where people live and work."

And that, Strick says, is at the heart of Nasher XChange.



for placing his concrete-and-steel sculpture, *Flock in Space*.

It's why Rick Lowe chose to embrace Vickery Meadow for his community-based project, whose outdoor market will be unveiled in a neighborhood where 28 languages are spoken each day.

It's why Vicki Meek chose to honor the African-American heritage of Bishop College, whose campus is now home to Paul Quinn College.

It's why Ugo Rondinone chose Fish Trap Lake in West Dallas to install his brightly colored pier, and noted artist Liz Larner will install a pair of sculptures at the University of Texas at Dallas.

Strick calls XChange "the most exciting project I've ever worked on," because of the interplay it fosters between "remarkable artists" working with "different sites in different communities."

Part of the ambition behind XChange was, he says, to provide "a survey of contemporary practice in public sculpture, a field that's exploded in the last 10 to 20 years."

XChange arrives, of course, at a delicate time in the Nasher's history. The Nasher recently passed the second anniversary of "the glare," which first made its presence felt in the outdoor garden on Sept. 26, 2011.



Tom Fox/Staff Photographer

**Nasher** director Jeremy Strick announced the Nasher XChange public art exhibition in February.

and one of the nastiest disputes in Dallas history.

Mayor Mike Rawlings recently appointed four new members to the board of the Dallas Police and Fire Pension System, which owns Museum Tower. Strick is impressed with the "seriousness and determination" of the new members, who appear committed to ending the stalemate.

"We hope that a solution will be found and implemented very early in our second decade," Strick says with a laugh. "By the time we're celebrating our 20th anniversary, I hope this will be a vague and distant memory."