

## ART

# Dallas center recognizes Houston artist

**By Molly Glentzer**

Rick Lowe, the Houston “social sculptor” whose medium is people, has been named the first artist-in-residence of Dallas’ Nasher Sculpture Center.

The designation will allow the center to continue Lowe’s recent “Trans.lation” project for two years, said director Jeremy Strick. Lowe was among 10 artists commissioned to create projects for Nasher XChange, a celebration of the organization’s first decade that ended in mid-February.

“The work he developed is not an object. It’s a living organism, and we always felt one measure of its success would be whether it continued,” Strick said.

“Trans.lation” emphasizes cultural diversity as an asset in Vickery Meadow, an apartment neighborhood in north Dallas with a large concentration of immigrants. Lowe established a series of workshops that identified residents’ creative strengths and encouraged them to collaborate. They created art and crafts that

were exhibited at three gallery spaces and sold at pop-up markets.

Project Row Houses, founded by Lowe about 20 years ago in Houston, offers proof of the transformation that social sculpture can bring over time, and the Nasher didn’t want to let a good thing go before it got off the ground fully.

“Residents felt strongly they wanted to keep it

going,” Strick said. The second phase will focus on the workshops, with fewer markets, he added. “We want to solidify the gains that have been made so it can continue indefinitely.”

Strick lauded Lowe as a remarkable artist.

In spite of the title, Lowe isn’t leaving Houston. He visits Dallas about twice monthly, he said.

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