

Learning to Fly

A Collaborative sculpture by Sherry Owens and Art Shirer
In Splendora, TX – *A Gift from the Bower*
Opens on Earth Day – April 22, 2023

*Last year's miracles will soon be
forgotten. New creatures whirl in*

*from nonexistence, galaxies scattered
around their feet. Have you met them?*

Jalaluddin Rumi

Drawing inspiration from nature, the big and the small, our thoughts wonder about everything we observe—the vastness of space and all it contains. The night sky full of stars whose light travels hundreds of years across the cosmos enchants our evenings and dew illuminates spider webs at dawn. The beauty we find here informs the ideas visualized in our Splendora bower.

Images from the Hubble and James Webb telescopes have expanded our horizons far beyond what was previously known. With an assortment of simple materials hung in this environment, our imaginations extend the boundaries of our thoughts to structures that may exist around us. These forms could represent a nursery where stars are born to become the furnaces that make all the known elements or a schematic outline of a theoretical multiverse or simply the suspension of an abstract sculptural form.

Our intention is to surprise all who encounter this work with the unexpected creating a sense of wonder. We are grateful to James Surls and Charmaine Locke for sharing their environment and inviting us to make something new in this space.