

***Shelter* Art Statement**

Shelter addresses humanity's need to seek physical and psychological shelter in a modern world. Referencing African nail fetishes, *Shelter* is a room-sized, empty steel cage juxtaposed with its twin and pierced with millions of small, silver nails. Traditionally, fetishes gained power as people grew to believe in them. Similarly to the fetishes, *Shelter* appears menacing, but like the gothic church or rib cage it resembles, the work is intended as a powerful, protective space that visitors may physically enter. More than 300 people participated in making the work.

The internationally-exhibited artist Adrienne Outlaw explores the often conflicting dialog among science, nature and religion. Exploring a world she sees as beautiful yet dangerous, nourishing yet cruel, Outlaw considers the contradictions that develop as people grapple to balance the dichotomy between emotional and intellectual thought in an increasingly technological world. Outlaw intends the work in the *Seek* show to be both unsettling and contradictory. Her statement reads, "We are placing greater demands on what technology can provide without thoughtfully considering the consequences. As scientific achievement surpasses our emotional-processing abilities, confusion occurs. We seem to choose psychological comfort over intellectual honesty. We tend to admire beauty, promote escape and scorn critical thought. Rather than struggle with the truth, we blindly seek salvation and hate what we don't understand. Is the idea of shelter one that provides solace and refuge or is it a place from which we escape? It is my hope that this work provides a platform for dialogue about our future direction."