

The Bridge 2009 – *Honorable Mention*

James Miller Robinson - Huntsville, AL

AT MAGIC CITY ART CONNECTION

the residents of Linn Park are asked to leave
so the weekend festival can use the grassy space
beneath the trees and along the fountains,
cascades, and pools in absence
of their bedrolls, backpacks, and plastic sacks.
So they squeeze together on what few
benches they can find across the streets
below the office towers,
courthouse, city hall, and museum of art
where they wait out the hours
like patient models being etched
and sculpted into the minds of all who pass.
Beards of black, blonde, and gray.
Mission-issue sweatshirts,
drooping socks, scavenged shoes.
Wheelchairs with missing parts,
the foam padding blossoming out
from ripped and tattered armrests.
Those able to lift and load offer to help
set up display tents and carry the work
of exhibitors' wares onto the very spots
where, for the sake of art,
they won't be sleeping these two nights.