

Addendum to Mary McCoy's Washington Post article, 'Worth an Office Visit'.

Arnold and Porter are very prominent lawyers in Washington DC and internationally. Historically they were the only lawyers to represent victims of Senator Joseph McCarthy. They dedicate a section of their practice to pro bono cases: famously they represented Gideon in the Gideon vs. Wainwright 1963 supreme court case.

The gallery space at Arnold and Porter in Washington is a wide corridor leading to their board room, which can be seen through glass doors from the gallery. My straw dolls lined this walkway. The lawyers identified the sculptures as representing Appalachian and more generally, Poor Folks in America. The somewhat lurid and ill-looking figures reminded the lawyers of the on-going debate about universal healthcare. They enjoyed the sculptures describing them as, 'our friends' while discussing the various meanings with visitors.

The gallery is a much sought-after venue for Washington area artists, curated by the International Sculpture centre. I was offered three opportunities to show, one in the summer, spring or fall. I chose the summer because it fit my schedule. I survived as an artist with a family, working as a preparator/ designer for Walters Art Museum where I had free health insurance through The City of Baltimore. The summer was the only time gap compatible with my job.

While Mary McCoy's response conjures the visual impact and reference to story-telling the lawyers tended to pursue the wider social, political and legal context alluded to in my work.