

Launch of the Lark

2009, Ginger Henry Geyer

Glazed porcelain with white gold

App. 18" x 27" x 17"

Adaptations on backpack: Van Gogh's Wheatfield with Lark,

On rocket: Van Gogh's Starry Night

On boots: Three Sprinters, from Greek black figureware krater
and Torch Race with Prize Hydra: Three Youths, from Greek
red figureware krater

When our daughter Larkin graduated from UT, I made this piece for her, full of personal symbolism. The boots are modeled after ones she wore out in the third grade. She wore them everywhere and even won a mile race in them. Later on in college she was a runner for the UT track and cross-country teams, and she worked for the US Olympics. Hence, the Greek runners are here on their toes.

The backpack is the ubiquitous item she wore through school. This version bears an early Van Gogh landscape with a single lark sailing forth, probably singing, reminding me of Rafe von Williams, "The Lark Ascending".

One of Larkin's nicknames is "Sparky Larky" which reflects her personality and energy. I found a vintage box of "*Leaders Sparklers*", which was also appropriate for her. That led to other fireworks, including some invented Roman candles that evoke Granada (where she studied abroad), and Panama (where she worked one summer). The whole mess together is a send-off from Austin to her new home in San Diego.

("Launch of the Lark" will appear in the JULY story of "Chlora Gets Real", a series of twelve storybooks revolving around my sculpture and Chlora character.)