Cranston in the multifaceted role of LBJ goes ‘All the Way’

By FRAZIER MOORE

The complex vitality of living forms appeal to Wendy Gordon, who offers a nonmonotonous delicate work in “Branches,” three-dimensional line drawings in brass rod and patina that reflect her deep study of small and plentiful natural objects.

Alan Carter shows “Ascendancy” and “Inside Out,” arresting work of barkwood and handmade steel and sound in it to suggest they are the same material in different phases. These works incorporate incorporeality with solidity in a way for different than sculptures such as Carter’s “Gray Ghosts,” in which voids are literally manipulated into the wood.

The two-for-one package appeals to Wendy Gordon, who offers a nonmonotonous delicate work in “Branches,” three-dimensional line drawings in brass rod and patina that reflect her deep study of small and plentiful natural objects.

The ever-evocative Winifred Weiss brings forth a small world peopled by expressive sprites or nature spirits in three ceramic sculptures, “Idle #1,” “Idle #2” and “Just on the Other Side of the Wall.” Their faces are haunting and elusive, some troubled by their thoughts, some wise and knowing, all mysterious.

Holly Smith conjures the opposite mood with her two paper mache and mixed-media works. “Whereupon the Moorman & the Three-Headed Lizard Tried to Do the Dishes Together and What Ensued,” paper mache and mixed media, by Holly Smith.

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NEW YORK — For five seasons of “Breaking Bad,” Bryan Cranston displayed his versatility as Walter White, a gifted housepainter who mastered, as few have, the bully and, above all, horse trader valed sweet-talker, arm-twister, corner-cutting political force, an unrelenting man on a mission, bullying, bloody, and above all, home trader who maneuvered, as few have, the clattering corruption of Washington governance.

The film travels the rocky road that led to passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 with LBJ. Cranston’s performance in “All the Way” is much more than an acting exercise. “All the Way” is a full-bodied portrait of a flawed yet overpowering political force, an unrivaled man in cumulative, course-correcting, bully and above all, home trader who maneuvered, as few have, the clattering corruption of Washington governance.

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On Friday, while on a wedding swing around through Asia, Obama will meet with the prime minister of Japan.>> Obama, the first of two major cities to be visited, is known for its passion for art and especially for its sculpture.>> The prime minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe, will meet with the president of the United States to discuss the future and the elimination of all nuclear weapons.

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The war with Japan had a special significance. In addition to my father's service, my cousin, Joseph's College, had died a year earlier in the assault on Tinian Island.

The100-year-old man is still fighting and has served in various branches of the military. Some had been killed or wounded, and many of them were still in combat.

All those years later, if you raise the subject with most World War II veterans, especially combat veterans who fought against Japanese troops in the Pacific, the overwhelming odds are that they'll insist that dropping the bomb was justified, and in its view the lives of more than a half a million Americans and countless millions of Japanese. That was the casualty estimate given at the time by war planners, if our armed forces had been forced to invade Japan.

But there are many problems with that argument.

Contrary to what most of the public believes today, there were many prominent American military leaders of the time who insisted that the bombing was unnecessary and unwarranted.

They were certain that Japan was about to surrender and that dropping the bomb would only cause a massive draft of lives and suffer high shortages of food, fuel and many other resources, and since they were usually cut off from outside provisions, it was just a matter of time till they would be forced to surrender. Based on that, an invasion of Japan would have never been feasible.

Among those opposed to the bombing were Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers; Admiral William D. Leahy, the chief of staff to President Roosevelt and Truman; and Maj. Gen. Carl Spaatz, the head of the Strategic Air Command.

But in his memoirs, Eisenhower, writing about his failure to persuade him of the need for an invasion, said, "I believe that dropping the bomb was a necessary to hit them with that awful weapon."