

New Hope Sculpture Exhibition
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BACKGROUND ON ARTISTS INCLUDED IN THE NEW HOPE OUTDOOR EXHIBITION

Among the artists selected are noted sculptors who have been awarded Fellowships from the National Endowment of the Arts and important foundations such as New York Foundation for the Arts and the Pollock-Krasner Foundation. The selected artists have won numerous awards in prestigious international and national exhibitions and are included in the permanent collections of prominent museums as well as in public and private collections throughout the country and abroad.

Howard Kalish's 8' x 9' x 8' bronze piece *Urchin* will be on exhibit at the entrance to Union Square on Bridge Street on the property of site host Labor & Logistics Management. The sculpture is made of bronze with a polychrome patina - the resulting piece is permanent and virtually maintenance free because the color is achieved through patinas rather than paint.

A recipient of an NEA Grant Award for Sculpture, Howard's work has been exhibited in fine galleries and museums in New York including Pratt Manhattan Center, National Academy of Design, Bowery Gallery, Sculptor's Guild, Union League Gallery, Denise Bibro Fine Arts, Fordham University, Lincoln Center and beyond New York at the Kyoto Gallery in Japan, Chesterwood Museum in Massachusetts, Grounds for Sculpture in New Jersey and the Chicago Pier Show among others.

Kalish explains the basic aesthetic of his work as "growth and structure, the various ways forms are put together and become themselves, in nature and in the way the mind perceives them. An idea or seed is born and I try to let it realize itself in the form of a three dimensional object by nurturing and not violating its essence. In the best of circumstances the thing that is created has an existence of its own, independent of me."

Kate Graves' Zero Tolerance Area sculptures began as a photo essay when she began taking pictures of abandoned buildings in Trenton, New Jersey. The evidence of the neglect present in their erosion spoke to the artist of the social history of the place, "of the lack of local ability to rise above post-industrial blight that many other similarly afflicted cities have grown beyond."

The artist began to re-create the houses in bronze, in scaled down form, as minutely as possible, including overgrowth and boarded-up windows. The artist intends for the series to serve as a "mute reminder that maintenance and vigilance are necessary, both interior and exterior; that without them, over time, even the most noble built countenances will sag and fall to dust."

The series of 3 works will be exhibited at the entrance of Union Square on Bridge Street. Kate currently works as a purchasing agent for Johnson Atelier Technical Institute of Sculpture and her work has been exhibited at Trenton City Museum, Extension Gallery and Witherspoon Gallery in New Jersey.

Rob Ressler's piece - *Wall St. Serenade* - adds a touch of whimsy to the show. The oversized accordion playing frog with its upturned hat ready for tips is certain to be a favorite of families. Most of

Rob's pieces incorporate an innate sense of playfulness that makes them appealing to a broad audience of young and old alike. His works have been featured in one-man exhibitions throughout the country at such facilities as Grounds for Sculpture, Michener Art Museum and Decordova Museum.

Since 1988, Robert Ressler has been creating large-scale works for public sites throughout the East Coast. With the support of various municipal agencies, art organizations and local Community Boards, he has exhibited sculpture at New York City sites as diverse as the Jewish Museum, Prospect Park in Brooklyn, Times Square, Riverbank State Park in Harlem and Wave Hill, and the world-renowned gardens in Riverdale. Works such as Mantis, an 18 foot emerald bug recently acquired by the City of New York for the Staten Island Children's Museum, 3 Of Us, a revolving sculptural bench and Armadillo were created particularly with young viewers in mind who clamor over, climb in and whirl around these artworks enthusiastically. Inclusive and accessible, these public works have enjoyed popular and critical approval through their color, imagery and the sensuality of the wood. Ressler's large piece seemed a natural for the grounds of the New Hope Solebury Library.

Another sculptor who embodies his work with a sense of whimsy is **Dana Stewart** who will be exhibiting *What Tail*, a bronze sculpture beastie that boasts a 17' tail. His piece will be exhibited at the entrance of Triumph Restaurant & Brewery in Union Square on Bridge Street. Stewart's fanciful creatures, which sometimes at first glance can have a certain sinister feel, seem clearly rooted in fantasy and fairy tales – unreal and yet familiar at the same time. A popular favorite from last year's show – Boomer- was also created by Stewart.

Dana's award winning sculpture has been exhibited at Grounds for Sculpture, Trenton City Museum, Mercer Community College, University of Alabama, West Chester University and numerous fine galleries throughout the east coast. For almost ten years Dana headed the Ceramic Shell Casting Department at the Johnson Atelier until opening his own casting studio in Lambertville, New Jersey where he casts all of his own work in bronze. He also serves as consultant to art foundries and universities throughout the country and provides casting services to other artists

Kevin Forest piece entitled *Trinity*, speaks to the unity of body, mind and spirit - of mother, father and child. The artist seeks to represent the timelessness of that unity.

Forest's work has been repeatedly exhibited at Phillips Mill's Annual Fall Exhibition, The Bucks County Sculpture Show sponsored by the Bucks County Chamber of Commerce, Buckingham Valley Outdoor Exhibition, the Bucks County Visitor's Center and the Hicks Arts Center at Bucks County Community College. His work has also been included in group shows sponsored by Artsbridge and Core 10 and was recently featured in a one-person show at The Summer Kitchen. While a student at Bucks County Community College, Kevin was the recipient of the Legacy Scholarship for Advanced Sculpture.

The Wedgwood Inn will be the site for **Christoph Spath's** 10' stone and glass sculpture *Spring*. Originally from Europe, until very recently he served as Head of the Stone Division at Johnson Atelier and since 1990 has been an invited instructor at several of the prestigious International Sculpture Conferences.

His sculpture has been featured in more than a dozen one person shows and well know group shows such as Chicago's Pier Walk and Art Expo in Manhattan.

Christoph has been commissioned by Iowa City, The Vermont Bicentennial Sculpture Symposium and the Burlington Waterfront Symposium among others to create special works for their communities. His sculpture has repeatedly won First Place and Best in Show awards and his work is included in numerous noted collections including Chianti Sculpture Park in Italy, Merck & Co., Grounds for Sculpture in New Jersey, Eastern Mennonite College in Virginia, and Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park in Ohio among many others.

Spath's work is carved in stone that he often combines with glass, incorporating light into the overall aesthetic of the piece. Interested in forms of ancient origin - the column, the portal, and the wheel - his works often have a totemic or alter like feel. After selecting a block of stone from the quarry Spath begins carving directly into the block, searching for a balance between the natural stone and the man made form. The glass-filled voids that often appear in his work represent the inner space, the soul if you will.

Harry Gordon's *Connections* is a 10' carved wooden piece that offers a classic example of how Harry works in wood. "I cut deep into the wood to suggest worn, organic shapes, some of which are smooth, some chiseled. My intent with this piece was to convey nature's tendency to "soften organic materials with age, and yet when the shapes are stacked in a vertical powerful way to defy wearing away." His monumental piece is created from only two pieces of wood.

Harry has a BFA in Sculpture from Syracuse University and a MFA in Sculpture from Rutgers University. From 1983 to 1998, he worked at Johnson Atelier Technical Institute of Sculpture, Mercerville, NJ as Department Head of Sculpture Installations. He was Professor of Sculpture I, II, and 3D Design at Raritan Valley Community College, Branchburg, NJ from 1998 - 1999 and Professor of Metalwork and Foundry at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY in 1999.

Since 1986 Harry has participated in over 23 group exhibitions. His work has taken numerous awards including The Herk Van Tongeren Memorial Sculpture Fund Award in 1989, Best in Show at the "Contemporary Sculpture '91 -'92" at Quietude Garden Gallery, and a fellowship from The Pollock-Krasner Foundation in 1992.

Harry's sculpture is included in a number of private collections around the country as well as the public collections of the James A. Michener Art Museum, The Runnymede Sculpture Farm, Plattsburgh Sculpture Park, Public Art Trust Permanent Collection, Mitchell Museum and many others.