



The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawings and Works on Paper

Gord Smith

Results of the Headhunt
April 22 - May 23, 2006



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Artist Catalog, 'Gord Smith - Headbones Gallery, The Drawers '
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Gord Smith

Results of the Headhunt

Gord Smith scribbled and muddied these heads like the creator in an 'off' or even flippant mood. This slip in omnipotence encompassed the breadth and width of being human. Like a mouthful, masticated and regurgitated, the senses discombobulate. Despite the thorough painterly pummeling, the images don't give cause for worry. They are, instead, amusing, like a pie in the face. This is not a statement reflecting victimization but empowerment. The drawings strike with the totalitarianism of a grand freedom gesture. Gord Smith, in a mental release of frustration messed up these faces and with the inherent right of a young man to let go of strictures, was liberated. The drawings cross over the lines of social restraint. The act is indulgent. The artist, being true to himself, gives back a statement of integrity.

Gord Smith is best known for his sculpture. Based on theoretical constructs that he has perfected throughout his formidable career and with a head of modernistic steam, he has forged a three dimensional legacy. The strength of the sculptural work is founded on a life long practice of two dimensional work such as these heads, works on paper from the fifties. They bare the true grit of the times, when the push and pull of the plastic surface was being explored with uncommon ferocity. Dark, intense depictions, they reveal a gamut of emotions, from ludicrous to enigmatic.

These are the drawings of an artist who has since passed beyond the moments that inspired their creation to arrive at a more logical, less emotional expression. They are like fertilizer, messy and scatological; they contributed to healthy growth. They are infantile - honest, uncontrived, immediate and impossible to duplicate at a later stage in life. They cleared out the stuck matter of an emotional moment and plopped it upon paper, freeing the psyche and passing the dross on to be viewed, a testament to humanness. They are an aesthetic turn-around for they read as powerful, strong, commanding, mature and wise beyond their years. They reflect uninhibited visual understanding and unabashed frankness.



A People
welded steel
22 x 18 x 22 in
1963



Untitled
India ink on paper
24 x18 in
circa 1950



Untitled
Ink on paper
24 x18 in
circa 1950



Untitled
oil on paper
24 x 18 in
circa 1950



Untitled
oil on paper
24 x 18 in
circa 1950



Untitled
oil on paper
24 x 18 in
circa 1950



Untitled
oil and india ink on paper
24 x 18 in
circa 1950



Untitled
oil and india ink on paper
18 x 24 in
circa 1950



Untitled
oil on paper
19.5 x 26 in
circa 1950



Untitled
oil on paper
18.75 x 26 in
circa 1950



Untitled
India ink
24 x18 in
circa 1950



Coal
welded steel
12 x12 x 15 in
1964

GORD SMITH R. C. A.

Born in Montreal, Quebec, October 8, 1937

Studied Architecture and Engineering at Sir George Williams University

Worked with architectural firm of Lawson, Betts and Cash, Montreal, Quebec 1956-1958.

Named Academician to the Royal Canadian Academy of Art 1967

Assistant Professor, Department of Visual Arts, University of Victoria 1972-75

Visiting Professor, Department of Art and History, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario 1993-94.

COMMISSIONS

- 1984 Private Commission, "Time-Space" 3 ½' x 6' Cast Bronze
- 1982-83 Weston's Ltd., Toronto, Ontario 16' Stainless Steel, "Sails"
- 1982 Daytona Beach Community College, Daytona Beach, Florida 14' x 32' Cor-Ten Steel
"Shrine to the Coming Age" and 5' x 4' Cor-Ten Steel, Virgin Walk"
- 1981-82 A. E. Lepage, Toronto, Ontario 12 ½' Bronze Casting, "Tryptich"
- 1979-80 Bell Canada, Toronto, Ontario 14' Bronze Casting "Icarus"
- 1977-78 Donwood Institute, Toronto, Ontario 9 ½' Bronze Casting, Ontario Cancer Institute,
Toronto, Ontario 8' x 10' Cor-Ten Steel, "Cell"
- 1974 Tarrn-Toronto, Ottawa, Ontario Stainless Steel "Weave" 1' x 1'
- 1973 Mrs. B. Copeland, Victoria, British Columbia 4' x 6' Bronze Relief
- 1972-73 Confederation Centre, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island 10' Stainless Steel Sculpture,
"Split Circle"
- 1971 Dr. and Mrs. E. Charrette, Kingston, Ontario 3 ½' "Heart" Sculpture of Surgical
Instruments.
- 1970 Dr. and Mrs. H Lapointe, Montreal, Quebec 5' Bronze Sculpture National Design Council
of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario "Chairman's Award" Sculpture
- 1968 Canadian Embassy, Bonn, Germany, 12' Bronze Sculpture
- Dalhousie University, Law Building, Halifax 12' x 9' x 1' Cor-Ten Steel Sculpture.
- 1967 Canadian Government Pavilion, Expo '67, Montreal, Quebec,
110' x 12', Cor-Ten Steel, "Canada Screen"
Department of Transport, "Argentia Ferry", Nova Scotia 10' Bronze Relief
International Nickel Company of Canada, Toronto, Ontario 8' x 9', Stainless Steel Relief
and Free Standing stainless steel sculpture Mrs. C. Nicholls, Halifax 6' Bronze Crucifix
- 1966 Carlingwood Public Library, Ottawa, Ontario 12' Hanging Bronze
- 1965 Sault Ste. Marie Airport, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario 12' Hanging Bronze Sculpture
Westmount Life Building, Toronto, Ontario two 4' Bronze Sculptures
- 1963 Waterloo Trust Company, Kitchener, Ontario 14' x 32' Bronze Sculpture
- 1962 Planned Estates Ltd., Toronto, Ontario 5' Bronze and 3' Steel Sculptures
Mrs. J. A. Houston, Toronto, Ontario 5' Bronze Sculpture
- 1961 Imperial West Apartments, Montreal, Quebec 2 ½' Steel Sculpture
McMaster University, Arts and Sciences Building, Hamilton, Ontario 12' Steel Relief
Sculpture
- 1960 "Les Habitations Jeanne Mance", Montreal, Quebec 43' Sculpture
Pall Corporation, New York, New York 5 ½', Steel Sculpture
- 1959 Frazer-Hickson Library, Montreal, Quebec 8' Bronze Sculpture
Governor Metcalf Apartments, Ottawa, Ontario 2 Bronze Sculptures

EXHIBITIONS

- 2001 Gallery Neubacher, Toronto, Ontario
1997 Eclectica Gallery, Kingston, Ontario
1994 Living-Room, Toronto
Living-Room, Woodstock Gallery, Woodstock, Ontario
1993 Living-Room, Carnegie Gallery, Dundas, Ontario
Living-Room, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario
1992 Living-Room, Toronto
Dance-Art, Living-Room & Desrosiers Dance Theatre, Toronto
1991 Living-Room, Toronto
Living-Room, Bancroft Art Gallery, Bancroft, Ontario
1989 Berkeley Gallery, Toronto
1988 Berkeley Gallery, Toronto
1985 Heritage Gallery, Toronto
1985 Moore Gallery, Hamilton, Ontario
Roberts Gallery, Toronto
1984 Gallery Jarman, Toronto
Mira Goddard Gallery, Toronto
Roberts Gallery, Toronto
1981 Roberts Gallery, Toronto
1980 Roberts Gallery, Toronto
1979 Roberts Gallery, Toronto
1978 Beckett Gallery, Hamilton, Ontario
Harbourfront Art Gallery, "Performance", 10th International Sculpture Conference, Toronto
1977 Lillian Marcus Gallery, Toronto
Wallack Gallery, Ottawa, Ontario
First Canadian Place, "Dimension 4", S.S.C., Toronto
1975 Wallack Gallery, Ottawa, Ontario
1973 Zan Gallery, Victoria, British Columbia
1972 Waddington Galleries, "International Exhibition"
Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth, Gord Smith
1969 Blue Barn Gallery, Ottawa, Ontario
1964 National Gallery of Canada, "Canadian Outdoor Sculpture competition",
Ottawa, Ontario
1963 Isaacs Gallery, Toronto
1962 Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal, Quebec
1961 Art Gallery of Ontario Three Canadian Exhibitions, Toronto

AWARDS

- 1980 Ontario Society of Artists Annual Award 14" high cast bronze sculpture
1977 Top Merit Award, "Dimension 4", S.S.C.
1971 First Prize for Sculpture, Winnipeg Hadassah Art Exhibition, Winnipeg, Manitoba
1971 University of Saskatchewan "Fountain Sculpture Competition", Regina, Saskatchewan
1971 Finalist, British Columbia Centennial Air Race Trophy Competition
1968 First Prize, Beth Tzedec Art Exhibition, Toronto
1967 Second Prize Monuments and Fountains for Expo '67
1964 Canada Council Grant
1964 Finalist, Mews Competition, Toronto
1962 First Prize, Salon de la Jeune Peinture & Sculpture
1961 Purchase Award, Mural Competition, Quebec Hydro
1957 First Prize, National Federation of Canadian Universities Art Competition

COLLECTIONS

National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario
Montreal Museum of Fine Art, Montreal, Quebec
McGill University
Sir George Williams University
Concordia Univ., Montreal, Quebec
Donwood Institute, Toronto, Ontario
Dalhousie Univ., Halifax, Nova Scotia
Bell Canada, Toronto, Ontario
Texaco Canada, Toronto, Ontario
Hamilton Art Gallery, Hamilton, Ontario
Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario
Glen Bow Museum, Calgary, Alberta
A. E. Lepage, Toronto, Ontario
Weston's Ltd., Toronto, Ontario
Daytona Beach Community College, Daytona Beach, Florida
Muse D'Art Contemporaine, Montreal, Quebec
Carlton University, Hamilton, Ontario
Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario
University of Victoria, British Columbia

Numerous private collections including:

Sir Henry Moore, Alana Miles, Joe Sealy, Pat Methanie, Sylvester Stallone,
R. York Wilson, R.C.A, Arthur Erickson, R.C.A.

RICH FOG



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