



The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper

Gord Smith

Beauty & Obsession

September 7 - October 10, 2006



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Gord Smith

Beauty & Obsession

Shape-shifting, changing the shape, extrapolating or creating a new shape from an already existing shape and, in doing so, regenerating life. It is the essence of procreation. It is the quest for perfection and the furthering of existence. It takes place every time an artist begins to work, but it takes place *literally* in the dowel sculptures of Gord Smith.

The extension is multi-fold. There is the basic transformation of the shape of the cylinder into the new shape by virtue of abandoning the cylinder as a singular entity and forcing it to be a module in a new order. There is the loss of one-ness as the cylindrical shape becomes just another small component in the make-up of a new whole. There is a philosophical connotation in this concept, in the idea of a single unit that becomes far more than itself only when it joins forces with other units similar to itself. It is a microcosmic importance that supercedes to the macrocosmic dynamic. There is even the simple concept of harmony and the realization that by yielding specific identity - the 'ego' of the object, it's sense of individuality - an expanded harmony results.

This is the essence of the creation of beauty and it circles around the concept of art as being that which is beautiful or of more than ordinary significance. The plebeian dowel is raised and becomes regal under the hands of a master. Gord Smith takes this essential geometrical form and aids in its progressive rise in stature. He fashions a new abstract form from a multitude of pure abstract forms. He conceptualizes this new order like a God contemplating the infinite possibilities of variables for newborns. He strokes and encourages the genesis and then he brings the new object up; he nurtures his creation, adding cell upon cell until it stands before him, proud and yet still rough and unfinished. He senses the fragile areas, the tenuous sensitivities, and he lends strength. He is open with them and lets the light shine through. Then he polishes his creation. He sands off the awkward edges. He rubs and burnishes the young surfaces so that they may reflect the pride of his inspiration.

He places them to be admired, knowing that they will be treasured, for their beauty inspires awe and wonder and worship follows close on the heels of wonder. They have lost much of their need for protective parenting or authorship. The pieces have lost their dowel-ness, their ordinary significance, and become that which is beautiful.

Inspiratrice, back
wood dowel
64 x 16 x 5 in
2006



Universe
wood dowel
25 x 10 x 10 in
2005



Galaxy
wood dowel
15 x 14 x 4 in
2006



Capsule
wood dowel
17 x 6 x 6 in
2005



Female
wood dowel
18 x 10 x 6 in
2005



Male
wood dowel
11 x 8 x 6 in
2005



Egg
wood dowel
8 x 3 x 3 in
2005



Monument II
wood dowel
17 x 7 x 4 in
2005



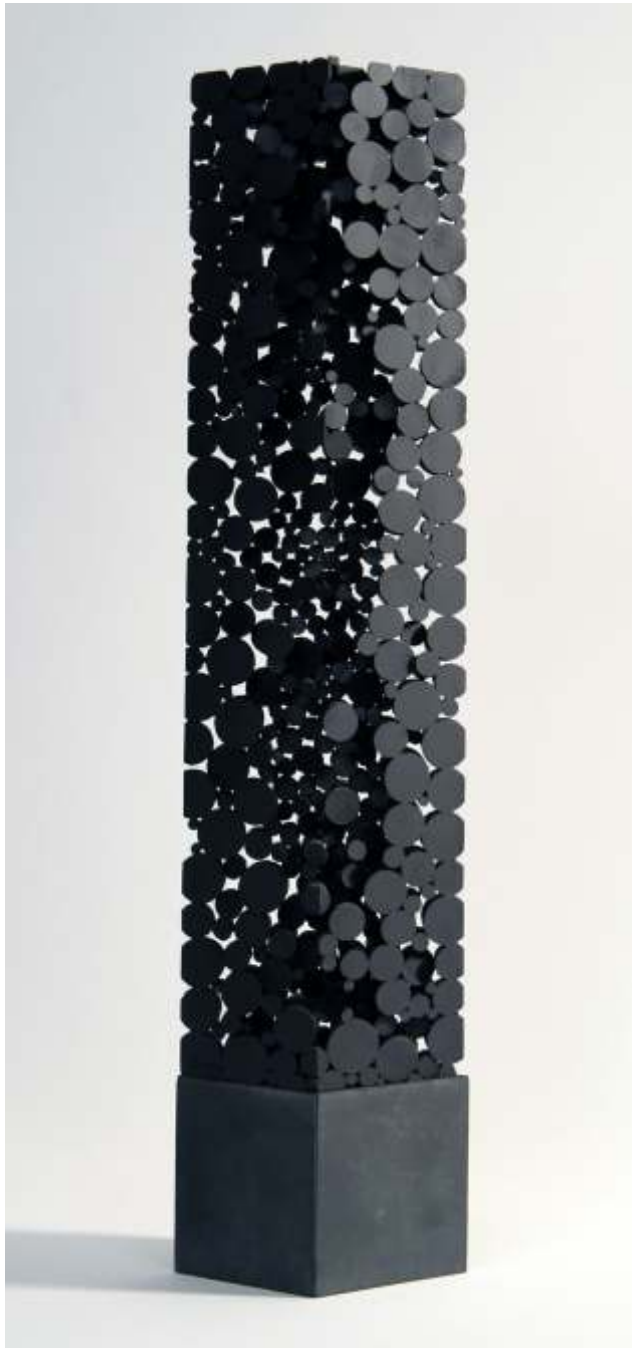
Headbones
wood dowel
13 x 12 x 6 in
2006



Dowel
wood dowel
25 x 4 x 4 in
2005



Cube Column
wood dowel
21 x 3.5 x 3.5 in
2005



Faith
wood dowel
32 x 9 x 4 in
2005



Cross
wood dowel
22 x 10 x 6 in
2005



Islamine
wood dowel
22 x 8 x 6 in
2005



Monument
wood dowel
17 x 5 x 5 in
2005



Tree
wood dowl
14 x 13 x 3 in
2005



Leaf
wood dowel
12 x 12 x 3 in
2005



Inspiratrice, front
wood dowel
64 x 16 x 5 in
2006



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

- 2006 Craig Scott Gallery, Toronto, Ontario
2006 Headbones Gallery, Toronto, Ontario
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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