



The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper

Gord Smith

An Erotic Exotic Christmas

December 9 - January 11, 2007



Commentary by Julie Oakes

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Artist Catalog, 'Gord Smith, Exotic Erotic Christmas - Headbones Gallery, The Drawers '
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Gord Smith

Julie Oakes

Penises, vaginas and breasts are polished to compete with the glow of the sun. Gord Smith's erotic sculptures relate to the diversity and interconnection of nature as it twists from geometry into organic forms. Much like the Pygmalion myth when the Cypriot king sculpted the perfect Aphrodite and the goddess took pity on his ardor and brought the sculpture to life, so Smith's erotic bronzes fulfill a niche not yet imagined by the original creator. *Tit-Roll, a concise combination of female genitalia, Tri-ball or Adam's Handle could be brought forward as contestants for the ultimate physiognomy, the stuff that is spoken of in the creation myths. Smith grounds a subject that has been shied away from by fixing the sensual in solid bronze sculpture.*

The attraction of the male genitalia to the female opening, the desire to enter another human while at the same time releasing one's own life essence, the sounds of fluid exchange and the guttural grunts of animal beginnings - all of these supple and subtle exchanges are fixed in bronze. The material attests to the commitment to launch the imagery towards infinity and grant a kind of everlasting-ness to eroticism.

The great erotic literary collections of the past were quite often retained by the clergy and it was in the secret recesses of religious libraries where the erotic texts were kept to be shown only to those who could digest them without undo attention, attention that could corrupt the viewer. The belief was that it took a strong faith to be able to understand the place of eroticism in life and that only the very wise could sustain the knowledge without corruption. There were erotic Renaissance treatises that were destroyed during periods of purge; so strong were they alleged to be. The concept of a wild potential where all might break loose if sexuality was to be given a seat in the parliament of our life's legislature has exerted an undeniable slant on the acceptance of sexual content in art and literature. It is this area of censorship, this politicized arena of earthly delights, that Smith has solidified in enduring bronze.

This group of bronzes, first begun in 1993, have never been shown. Perhaps they are still so ahead of their time that the status quo will catch up to their bold declaration of sexuality many years hence. But Gord Smith, with the stature of self realization, is ready to call it as it is and has vested dignity to a subject often

relegated to the back pages of underground newspapers. The erotic impulse is impressive. Only an experienced voice could reign as confidant and unflinching in the face of a subject that has flipped politicians, popes and more than one sacred vow, upside down.

Yet light is still the essential component for as in the lightness of being, it is the balance to the responsibility of existing. Just as sex can be the great release to let off the pressure of the stress of two separate entities relating, so the light reflects back from the bronzes and filters throughout the lacey circles that make up the drawings. Pastel and lovely, the drawings bounce and wriggle with energy like cells completing an organic whole.



Tri-ball, edition 12
cast bronze
height 11.5 x length 6.5 x depth 5.5 inches
1995



Boogie, edition 12
cast bronze
height 10 x length 4 x depth 3 inches
1995



Award, edition 12
cast bronze
height 5.5 x length 5 x depth 3 inches
1995



Cock Rock, edition 12
cast bronze
height 5 x length 6 x depth 4 inches
1995



Tit Roll, edition 12
cast bronze
height 5 x length 5 x depth 5 inches
1995



Birth, edition 12
cast bronze
height 6 x length 6 x depth 3.5 inches
1995



Adam's Handle, edition 12
cast bronze
height 6.5 x length 5.5 x depth 3 inches
1995



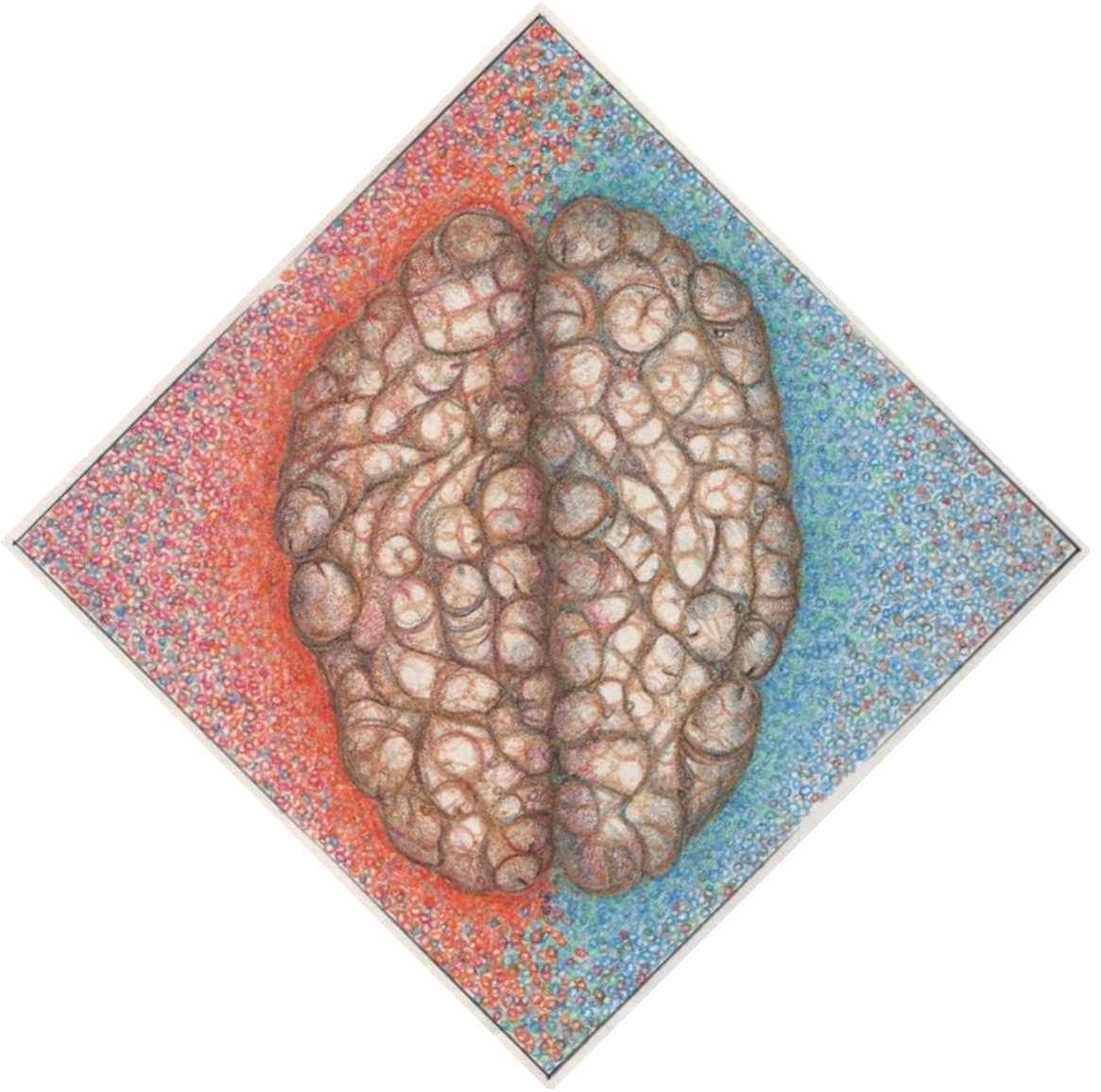
Religion, edition 12
cast bronze
height 10 x length 3.5 x depth 2 inches
1995



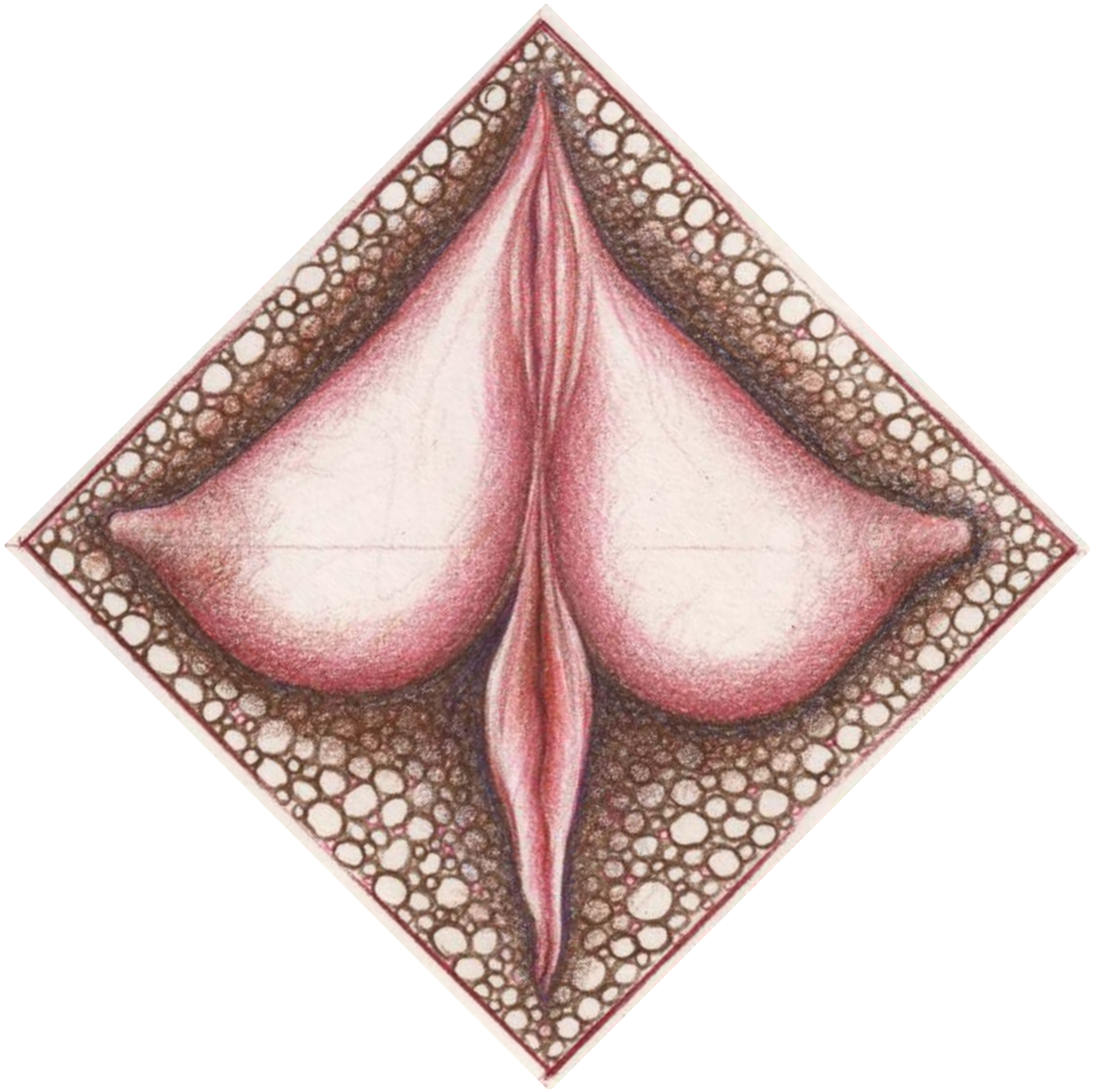
On The Sixth Day, edition 12
cast bronze
height 13 x length 2.5 x depth 7 inches
1995



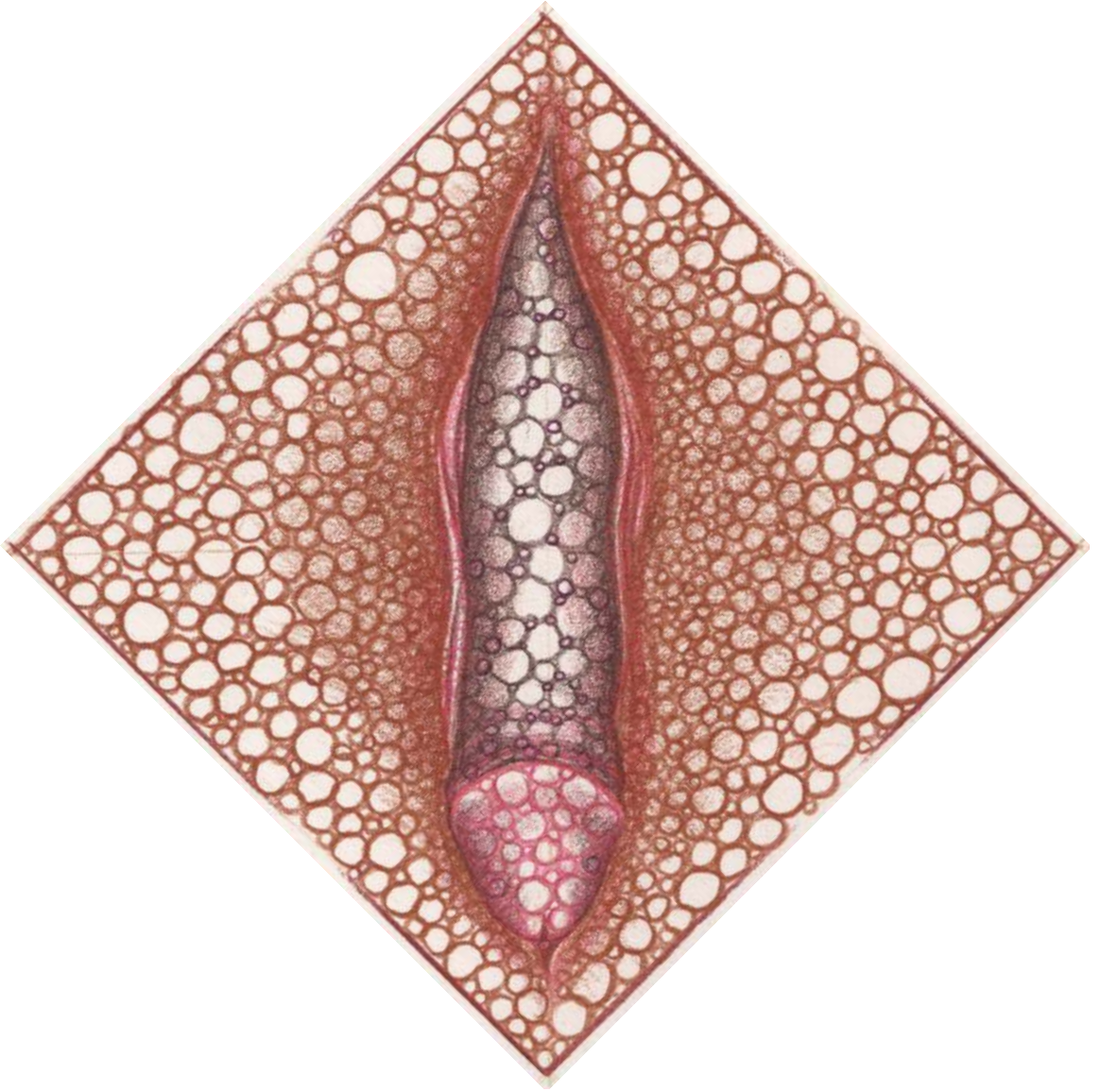
Home Run, edition 12
cast bronze
height 7.5 x length 7 x depth 3 inches
1995



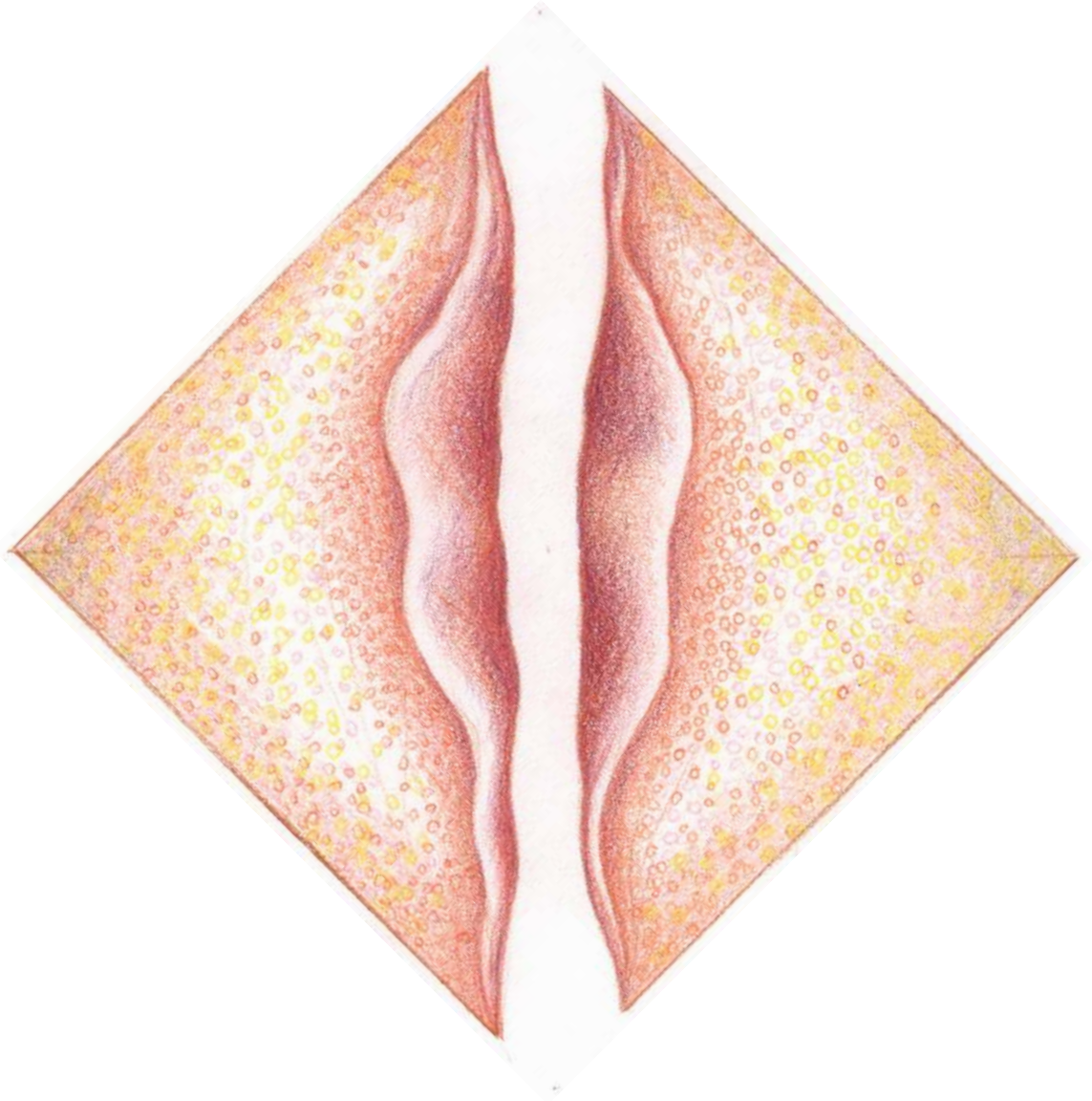
Brain
graphite on paper
6 x 6 inches
2006



East, West, North South
colored graphite on paper
6 x 6 inches
2006



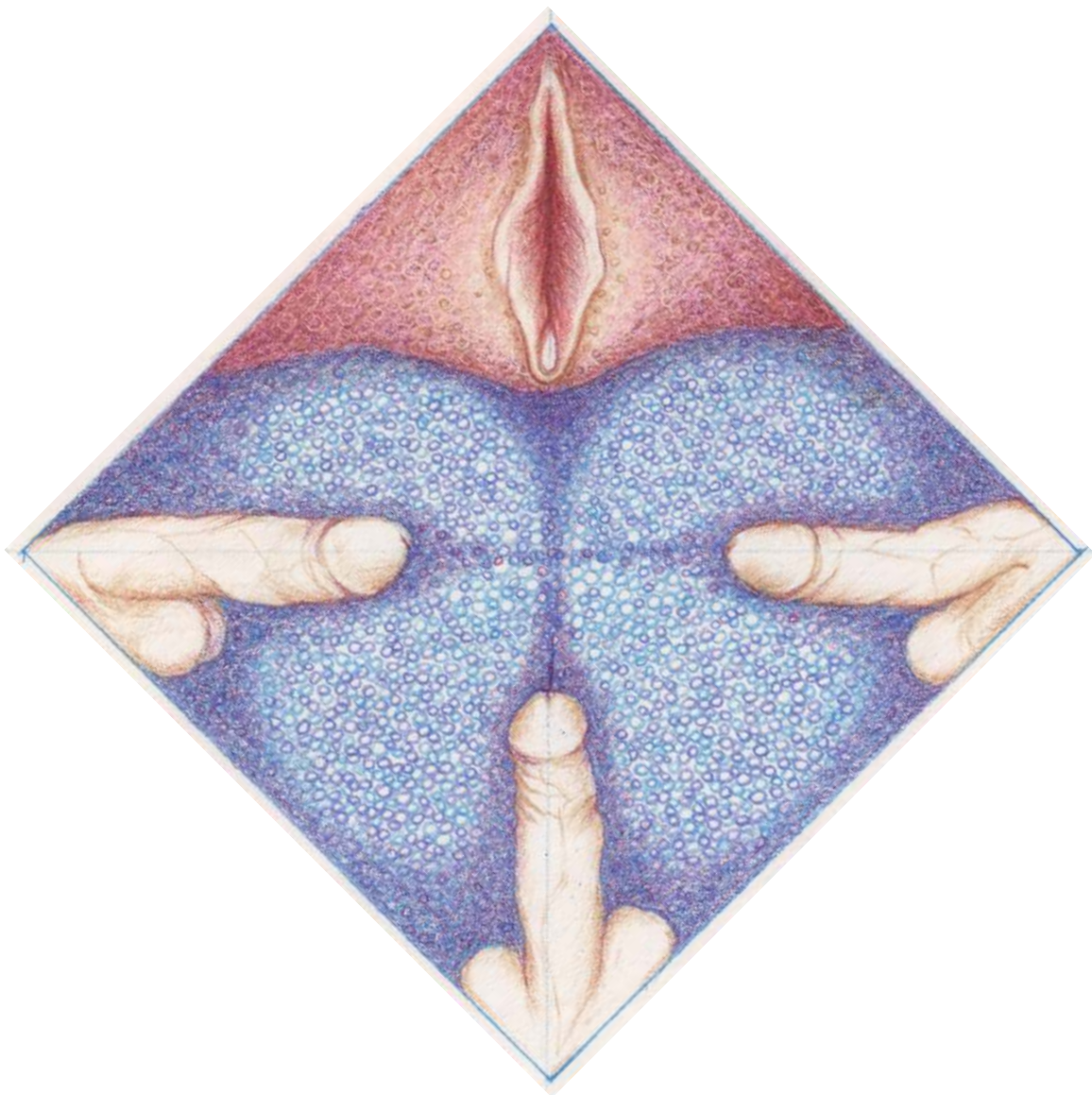
Pendulum
colored graphite on paper
6 x 6 inches
2006



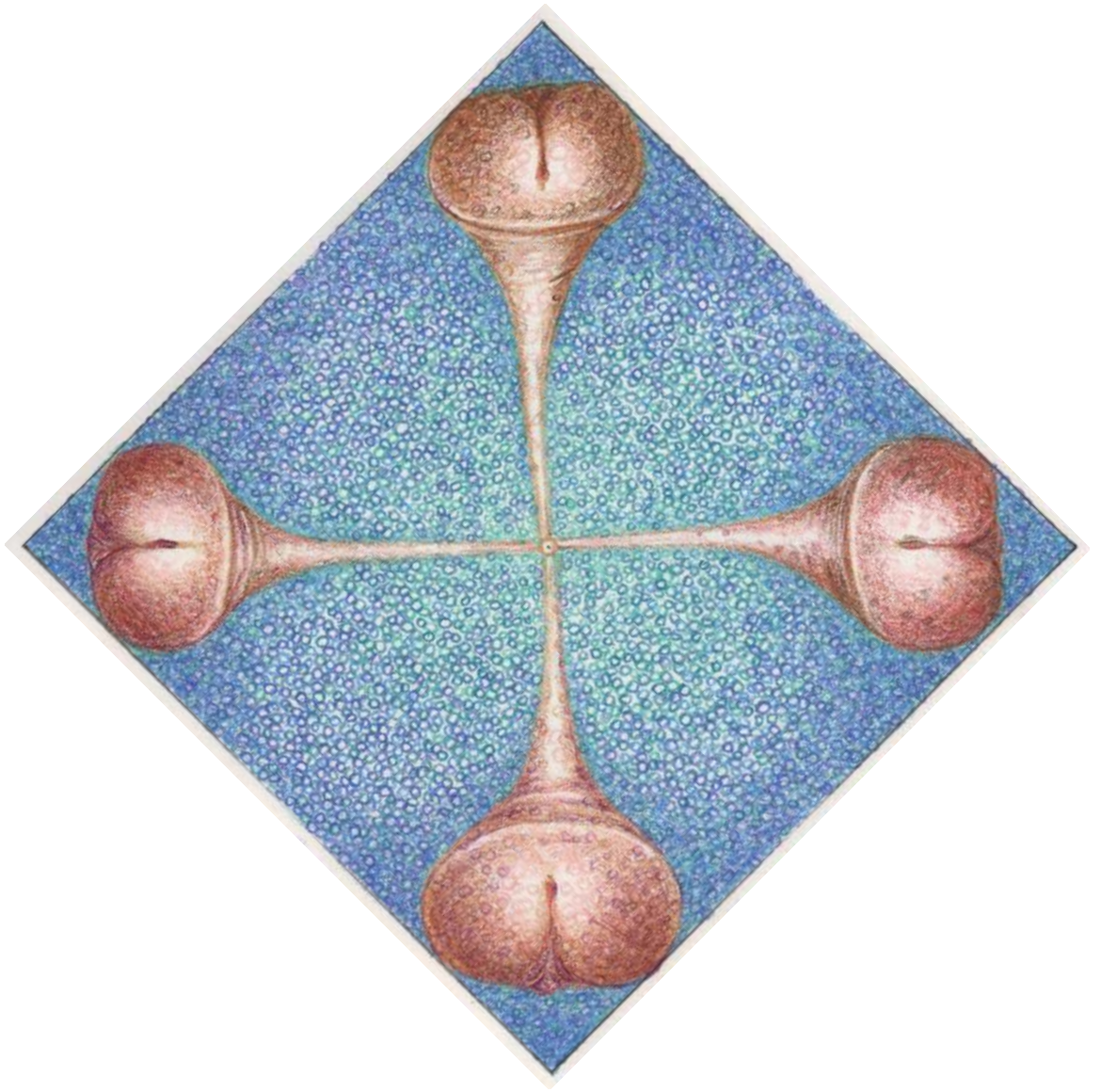
Creation
colored graphite on paper
6 x 6 inches
2006



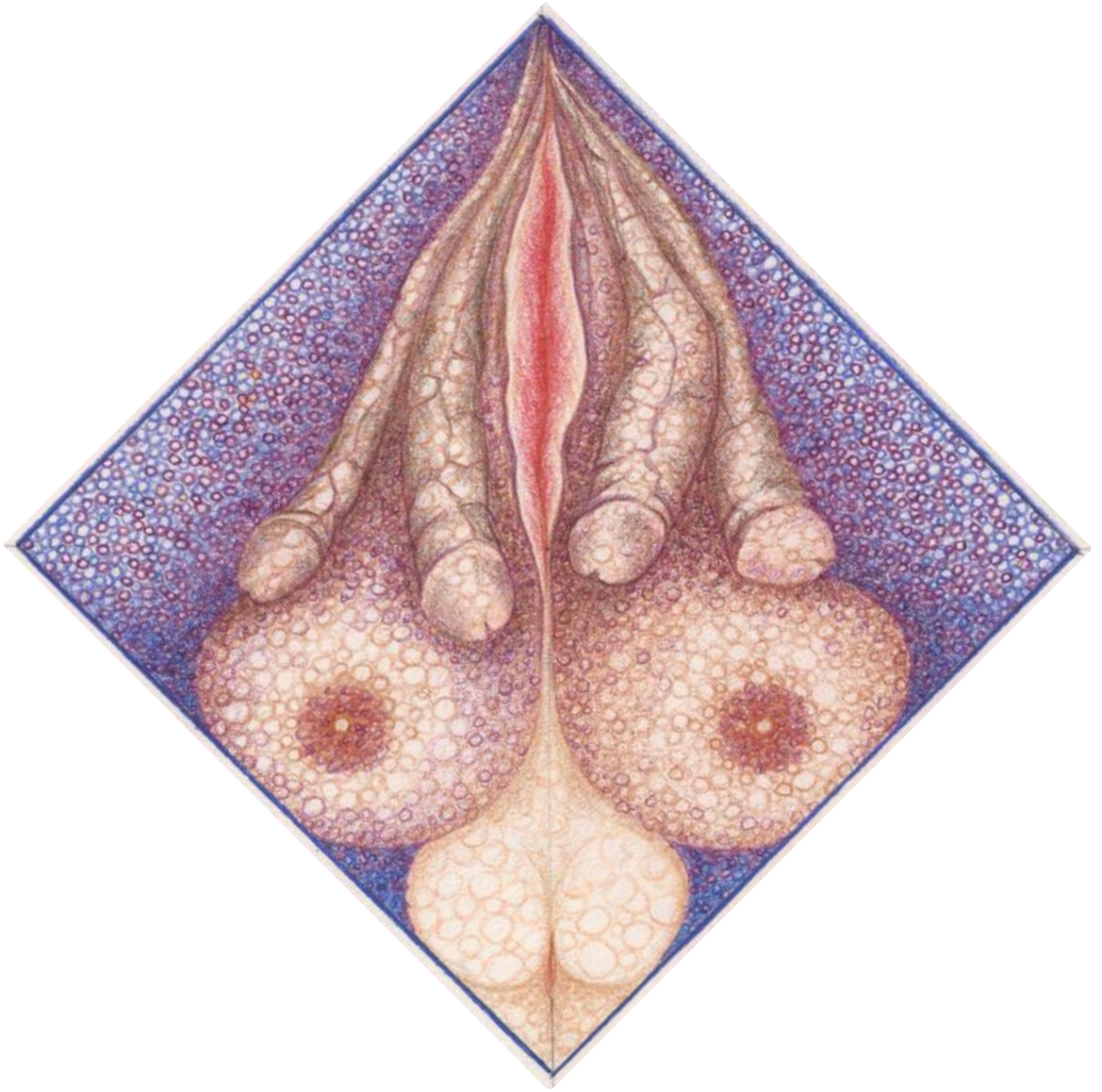
Burning Bush
colored graphite on paper
6 x 6 inches
2006



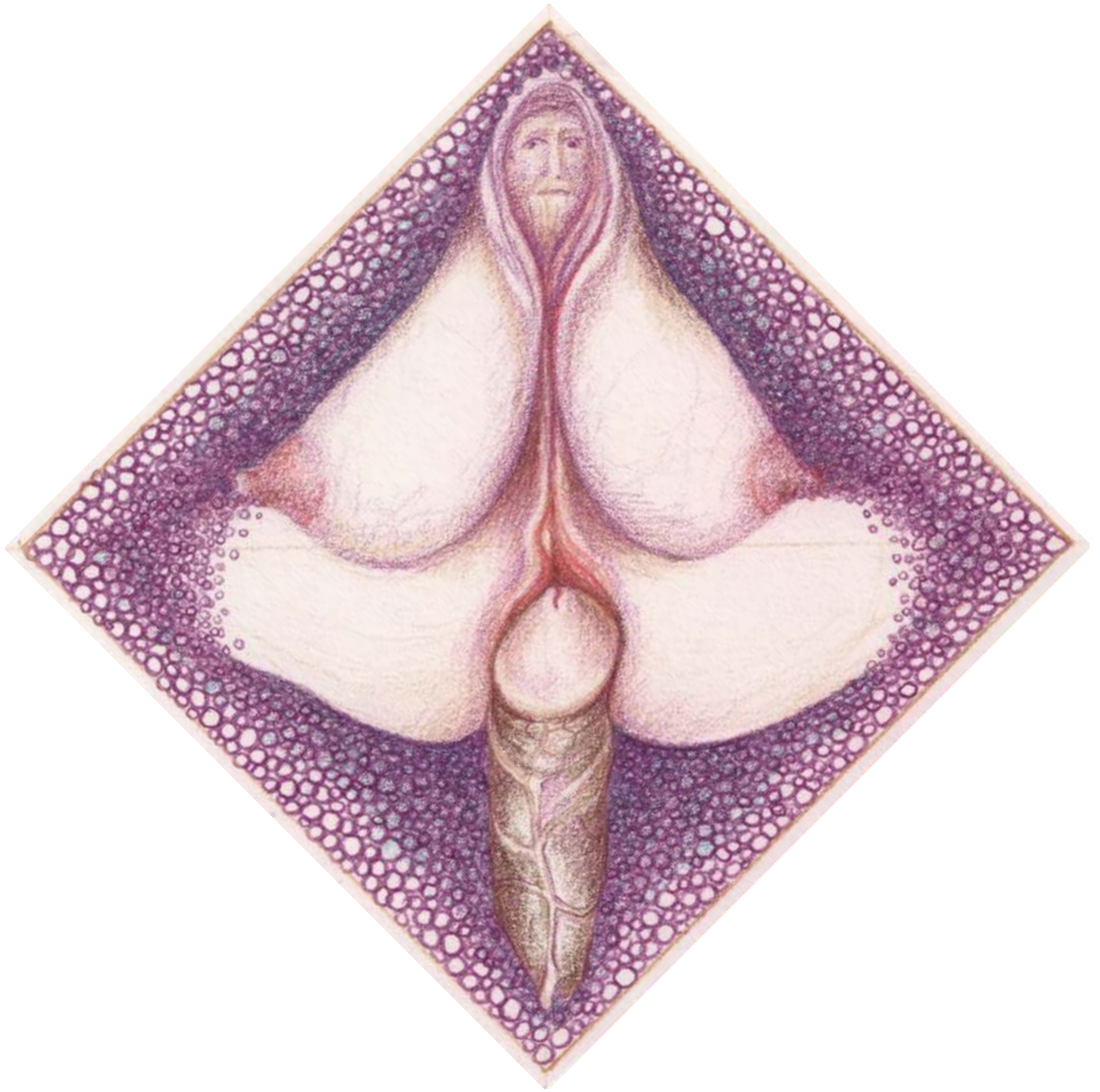
Wise Men
colored graphite on paper
6 x 6 inches
2006



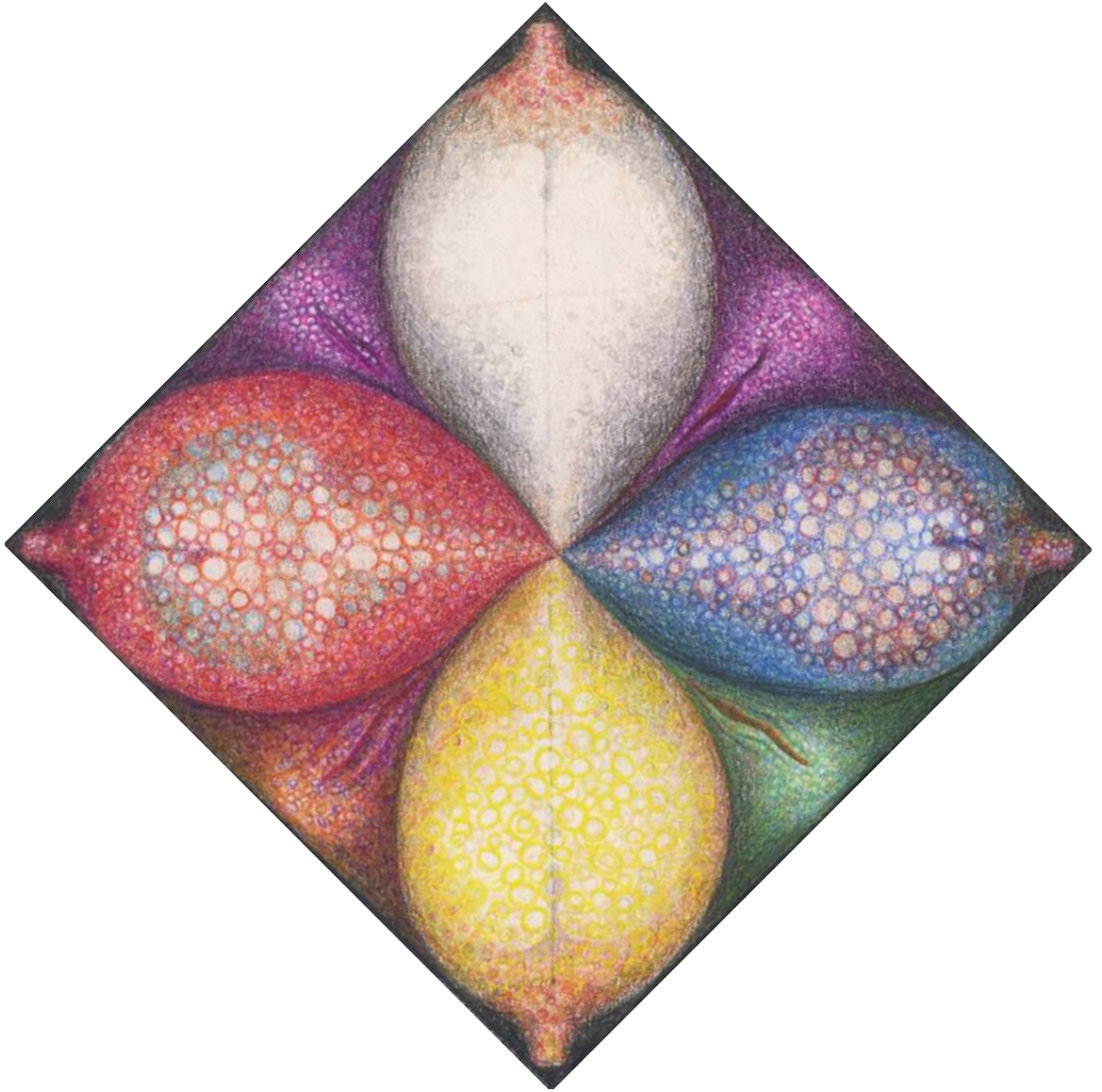
Galaxy
colored graphite on paper
6 x 6 inches
2006



Stole
colored graphite on paper
6 x 6 inches
2006



Prophet
colored graphite on paper
6 x 6 inches
2006



Races
colored graphite on paper
6 x 6 inches
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 Bronze - *Exotic Erotic Christmas*, Dec. 9 -Jan. 11, Headbones Gallery, The Drawers, Toronto, ON
- 2006 Amen - *Inde-Picks*, Nov. 16 - Dec. 9, Headbones Gallery, The Drawers, Toronto, ON
- 2006 Dowel - *Beauty & Obsession*, Sept. 7 - Oct. 10, Headbones Gallery, The Drawers, Toronto, ON
- 2006 Craig Scott Gallery, *Summer Salon*, Jul. 14 - Sep. 9, Toronto, ON
- 2006 Drawing - *Results Of The Headhunt*, Apr. 22 - May 23, Headbones Gallery, The Drawers, Toronto
- 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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