

# BRUCE GUESWEL

## ARTIST'S STATEMENT:

"I feel compelled to build. I choose and hybridize only a few of the ideas that flood through my mind. It is the process that is most enjoyable for me, inventing the tools or techniques when physical problems arise. This journey will inevitably influence the final piece, so the inception must be suitably vague and free to evolve.

Most of my work incorporates the human figure, partly because of an instinctual rightness that I first felt during academic classes in direct rendering from live models. The immediate I-thou of responding with charcoal or clay to the light and shadow on skin and balanced bones is infinitely diverse and fascinating. Primarily, I depict the figure because making and appreciating art is so exclusively human. Ancient cultures used the figure to tell stories of religion and royalty to illiterate pilgrims. It was a symbolic language that we can still read because our bodies empathize with those images personally. I try to enhance this further by making my sculpture life-size, so that they have a physical presence, like the body castings molded in ancient Pompeii's volcanic ash.

In retrospect, I can see some common themes growing in my work. There is a correlation with some of my personal philosophies, subconsciously filtering through my hands, but I try to avoid specific messages that would be better suited to political or editorial cartoons. I believe the deity and beauty reside in nature, so I use natural materials as my main medium. I think that we as a culture are fractured. We are disconnected from the earth; individuals are separated from community and family. Religions have become empty and fanatical in the face of science. My sculpted bodies are fragile, assembled broken fragments. So far, science has kept things together, so I sometimes include hardware and materials of a machine-age aesthetic to hold these sculptures together, if just barely.

My conscious goal is to make things that are beautiful, rich and interesting enough to appreciate during extended study. In spite of a sometimes sinister and pessimistic view of the world, I am striving for balance and connectedness in my own life and intend that the playful sense of humor, which elevates me, is apparent in each piece.

My work is a tying-together of a classical treatment of the human figure, and a use of materials that recognizes and exploits my ideal of beauty as it is manifested in nature. I use natural materials like a plagiarist for their beauty, encouraging chaos through incorporated accidents. Beauty is the gorgeous gesture of chaos in nature: the way clay earth cracks; rocks break, or curled tree roots show above ground. We easily recognize the silhouette of a cliff or the horizon of hills as images like faces or animals or bodies. That easy recognition surely led to those earliest carved idols. I want to recreate that recognition by anthropomorphizing the beauty in nature."



D E V I



SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

2002	Hao/Columbine Galleries	Denver, CO
2002	Retrospective Show, Loveland Art Museum	Loveland, CO
1994	"Reliquaries of Our Sacred Feminine", State Museum Art Gallery	Cheyenne, WY
1991	Loveland Academy of Fine Arts	Loveland, CO
1989	Glass Gallery, Colorado State University	Fort Collins, CO
1987	Mini-Gallery, Colorado State University	Fort Collins, CO

GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

1998-03	Annual National Sculptors' Guild Exhibition, Columbine Galleries	Loveland, CO
1995-03	Colorado Governor's Show, Loveland Art Museum	Loveland, CO
2000	Colorado/ Wyoming Biennial	Fort Collins, CO
1993-00	Sculpture in the Park, National Juried Exhibition	Loveland, CO
1999	Colorado Council on the Arts Traveling Show	Denver, Colorado Springs, Grand Junction & Cortez, CO
1993-98	North American Sculpture Exhibition	Golden, CO
1997-98	Little Big Horn Indian Memorial Proposals Traveling Exhibit	Nation-wide
1997	Colorado State Fair	Pueblo, CO
	Contemporary American Ceramics	Loveland, CO
	Spark Gallery Juried Show	Denver, CO
	"The King", Juried Show	Denver, CO
1996	Art of Squash	Evergreen, CO
	North American Sculpture Exhibition	Golden, CO
	Colorado Open	Golden, CO
1995-96	Artists' 'K'Nex'	Loveland, CO
	The Manitou Project	Manitou Springs, CO
1994	Poudre Valley Art League 33 <sup>rd</sup> Exhibition	Fort Collins, CO
	"You Call That Art?"	Fort Collins, CO
	North American Sculpture Exhibition	Golden, CO
	Alternative Arts Alliance	Denver, CO
1993	North American Sculpture Exhibition	Golden, CO
	Foothills Mall Anniversary	Fort Collins, CO



STEEL O B E L I S K

PUBLICATIONS:

2003	"Standing Out", Todd Wilkinson	Southwest Art
1998	"Foothills Show Claims Its Space", Mary Voltz Chandler	Rocky Mountain News
	"Tradition Lifts Golden Show", Jeff Bradly	the Denver Post
	"Arts and Entertainment", Phyllis Walbye	Reporter Herald
	"Shaping Up", Michael Paglia	Westword
	"North American Sculpture Exhibition"	Mountain Messenger
1997	"Ceramics Push Boundary...", Phyllis Walbye	Valley Window
1996	"The Art of Squash", Karen Kelso	Colorado Serenity
	"A Body Of Work", Steven Rosen	The Denver Post
	"Sculpture Makes Waves...", Mary Voltz Chandler	Rocky Mountain News
	"Guns Turn into Art", Felicia Jordan	Loveland Reporter-Herald
	"One Man's Weapon Is another Man's Art", David Persons	The Coloradoan
	"Gun Meltdown", El Filmer	CNN & KUSA Channel 9 News
1995	"Artists Make A K'nex-Tion", Phyllis Walbye	Valley Window
	"Two Local Artists", Dan Weitz	PBS
	"Artists Earns Grant" Phyllis Walbye	Loveland Reporter-Herald
1994	"Sights, Sounds", Carrie Williams	Triangle Revue
	"You Call That Art?", Liz Silbaugh	Inside Fort Collins
	"Contemporary Works Challenge Viewers", Phyllis Walbye	Valley Window
	"Snap, Crackle, Popular", B. Pamela Harrell	Vox
	"Sculptor Reproduces Figure with Variety of Materials"	Wyoming State Tribune
1993	"Bruce Gueswel – Nature in Motion", Dax Godkin	Art Revue
	"Sculpture in the Park", Judith Hughs	Art Talk
	"Don't Be Quick To Judge", Sue Leuthe	Loveland Reporter-Herald
	"Successful Controversy", Carol Dickinson	Art Revue
	"Show Opens Up To the World", Phyllis Walbye	Valley Window
	"North American Sculpture Exhibition", Heidi Eversley	Communiqué
	"Exhibit Holds Mirror to Am. Society", Marilynne Mason	Rocky Mountain News
	"Sculpture Exhibition Rewards Risk-Taking", Steven Rosen	The Denver Post
1990	"Committed To Excellence", Kathy Bonafede	Casting News



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CHIPOTLE MEXICAN GRILL