

NATIONAL SCULPTORS' GUILD

2683 N TAFT AVENUE * LOVELAND, COLORADO 80538

TEL 1.800.606.2015 * EMAIL MARK@NATIONALSCULPTORSGUILD.COM * WWW.NATIONALSCULPTORSGUILD.COM



TSUNAMI

BY MARK LEICHLITER & THE NATIONAL SCULPTORS' GUILD

Bronze and Stainless Steel Fountain ed/3

Scale: 14ft high

Site Location: Cerritos Civic Center Library Park

Commissioned by: the City of Cerritos, CA

Date commissioned: June 2000

Date installed/dedicated: March 2002

© all rights reserved by artist and/or commissioner

Tsunami is a Japanese word used as the scientific term for a seismic sea wave, a large ocean wave generated by an undersea earthquake. The wave is thought to be triggered when the ocean floor is tilted or offset during the quake. Another possible cause is an undersea landslide or volcanic eruption. This phenomenon demonstrates the formidable power of the earth and her oceans, but it is not the destructive power of these waves that was the inspiration for this sculpture. Upon scrutinizing the original maquette, it became apparent that its simplicity would not translate well to a much larger size, and to fully realize the impact of the metaphor it would also require the addition of a water feature. By utilizing water to fill a negative space within the material of the sculpture, the influence of these catastrophic waves upon humanity and our ability to overcome the hardships that ensue becomes the real crux of the piece. To further emphasize this point, Mark envisioned the work's conical base as employing a fissure-shaped trough filled with flowing water. This element completely divides the space around the sculpture, creating a single focal point-The "window" of cascading water in the piece-that serves as an idiom for the human process of healing or transcending the tragedy of natural disasters. The viewer can literally "reach through" the wave. The wave itself is constructed of two distinctive elements: a massive (10 ft. diameter, 1 in. thick) disk of stainless steel representing the tectonic plates that constitute the earth's crust; and two cast bronze wave shapes are attached directly to the disk. These impressive metal elements are securely anchored to the base and fully engineered for safety, but the anchoring system is hidden by a bubbling fountain element. This gives the impression that the entire piece is being supported by water, thus reinforcing the concept of the wave's tremendous power and still further underscoring our ability to transcend it.



ABOUT THE ARTIST: Having explored nearly every method of creating art, from lost-wax casting to hammer and chisel, Mark turned to high technology in an attempt at a fresh approach. "I spent five years immersing myself in 3D Computer Aided Design. I feel like I have finally reached a level that allows me to fully express myself as a sculptor. The technology that exists today is remarkable." Additional public art placements include the cities of Paramount, CA; La Quinta, CA; and the Little Rock National Airport, AR.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SCULPTORS' GUILD: Representing some of the most renowned sculpture artists in the nation, the Guild artists work as a team under the leadership of executive director John W. Kinkade. Our organization works closely with cities, municipalities, corporations and private institutions across the country to successfully enhance both indoor and outdoor venues with creative design and innovative artwork. The NSG design teams have enhanced public spaces in a timely fashion within budgets ranging from \$25,000 to \$2.8 million. When appropriate, the design team grows to include architects, landscape architects, structural engineers, designers and contractors from around the nation. Dependent on the nature of each project, the NSG draws upon this knowledgeable group of professionals with proven accountability in past projects.

photo credit: Jafe T. Parsons Photography / National Sculptors' Guild