

THE SCULPTURE CENTER

SUMMER

2001

#28

"Artists Considered . . ."

Eleventh Anniversary Exhibition
June 1 - July 6 2001

This year the Sculpture Center's anniversary exhibition not only provides an opportunity to view great art from across Ohio, as it has for over a decade. It also gives viewers insight into the early days of an important American cultural institution, the National Endowment for the Arts.

In 1967 the NEA gave its first grants to individual visual artists. Three Ohio artists—sculptors David Black and **Edwin Mieczkowski** and painter Will Insley—were among the 60 grant recipients. Many other Ohioans, including **Jerry Aidlin, John Clague, and Julian Stanczak**, were considered for grants. As this list indicates, the Endowment was unusually successful in its early years at focussing its process for reviewing and selecting awardees on only the most deserving artists. In my book, *Exhibitionism*, I examine the principles and priorities which drove the NEA's original peer review panels to reveal why they worked so well. I also show how a shift away from those principles in later years led to the degradation, and eventual elimination, of fellowships for individual visual artists.

The Sculpture Center's anniversary exhibition offers an uncommon opportunity to see assembled together sculpture and paintings by Ohio artists considered for or given grants in 1967. Of course, these works require no contextual explanation in order to be enjoyed. But some background on the process which provided the impetus for exhibiting them together will add another layer to our appreciation.

In the fall of 1966 panels were convened in New York City, Chicago, and Los Angeles to recommend artists for fellowships. The Chicago panel, which was responsible for recommending artists from Ohio and across the Midwest, met at an office in the Art Institute. Panelists included Walker Art Center director Martin Friedman, Cleveland Museum of Art curator Edward Henning, and Chicago sculptor Richard Hunt. Participants in other panels included painter Robert Motherwell and sculptor George Segal.

The only significant factor in determining which artists would receive grants was the quality of their work. In order to concentrate support so keenly on the best artists, Geldzahler needed to set up a selection process informed by serious artists and others who, like himself, looked at art as artists did. According to Richard Hunt, Geldzahler wanted to make choices based on "what other artists were saying about other artists." And he trusted that if you assembled those with the most intimate knowledge of the serious art world, they would know who the best artists were, even if their work was known only to one panelist.

Many of the NEA's 1967 grantees—including Mark di Suvero, Dan Flavin, Donald Judd, Agnes Martin, Edward Ruscha, and Tony Smith—produced work that is now so widely celebrated that it is difficult to believe that at the time they could scarcely find an audience for their work. Today these artists' works are the textbook examples in their areas of endeavor. But the clearest evidence of the rigor of these early panels is that the grants list is solid all the way through. It is impressive to recognize standouts but even more difficult to identify dozens of other less obvious but equally worthy candidates for support.

The high standard set by these early panels in essence took the gamble out of the grantmaking process. The panels were not guessing—as they would in the NEA's later years—and placing bets on artists whom they hoped might pan out. Under Geldzahler's leadership, the NEA funded only visual artists who already had demonstrated some success in achieving serious artistic goals. The Sculpture Center's 11th anniversary exhibition is a tribute not only to the artists whose work is assembled here, but to what the extraordinary quality of that work says about the rigor, and the wisdom, of the early NEA.

by Lynne Munson, author of *Exhibitionism: Art in an Era of Intolerance* (2000, Ivan R. Dee), is a research fellow at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research in Washington, D.C. She will be a guest of The Sculpture Center at the opening.

Opening Reception: Friday June 1st 5 pm - 8 pm



Forging Workshops a Success

Ken Roby recently hosted a series of workshops at The Village Blacksmith in Auburn, Ohio. Ken is a master blacksmith, who began his training and career as a ferrier. Ken is now producing large ornamental steel-work along with his sculpture. Stepping into Ken's well organized shop, one is drawn to the curvilinear steel jigs hanging from the walls, dozens of pairs of carefully shaped and sized tongs, three anvils bespeaking rich histories in their honed surfaces, and the coal and propane forges. There is no extra space in the forging area - everything is within arm's length so that the steel retains its heat from forge to anvil. Ken produced a forged hook within a matter of minutes stressing that the art of forging is a matter of finesse, not brute force. The third workshop will be a special project day where attendees will bring in problems to solve using the shop's tools. Many thanks go out to Ken for so generously opening his doors. This set of workshops has truly provided a unique and rich experience to all involved. Attendees included Mary Ann Sheranko, Steve Mitskavitch, Mark Tucker, Joan Cooper Rusek, Ed Lavelle, Aaron Wood, Bill Leddy and Kim Bissett who wrote this description.

All-Nite Sculpting Event

Sat. - Sun.
June 2 -3

Well it's time for the Second Annual All Nite Sculpture Free- For- All. Like last year, this is time for you to work on your art in the company of fellow artists. Setting aside time to work, it's up to you what you do. We supply the space and the power. This year we will overlap with a kids day event called A Day In the Life of Sculpture. 12pm-4pm
Time: **11 am till 11 am.**
Where: In the parking lot of The Sculpture Center.
We will have a grill and charcoal, you bring stuff to cook.
If you have any questions or problems call and RSVP:
Nathaniel Parsons (216) 229-6527

Conservation Corner

What we're working on!



Tender Loving Care

Fans of water, soap, and wax are needed to provide the TLC (Tender Loving Care) to the outdoor sculptures in the area. All ages are welcome and hours vary from one hour to as many as you can spare. Pending weather, sculpture maintenance will begin the week of May 21st. Help take care of these civic gems which grace our city! Thank you!



TITLE: **Dansa** (1965-81)
ARTIST: **Ginnever, Charles** (1931-)
SITE: **Edgewater/Cleveland Lakefront State Park**

- ◆ Origin of the sculpture was from the "Gothic" series of plexiglass pieces from 1965. These were transposed sometime later into steel and the "Origami" series (folded paper plane sculptures).
- ◆ *Dansa* was installed in 1981, along with a show for Ohio sculptors entitled "Sculpture Outside In Cleveland."
- ◆ *Dansa* is slated for conservation in 2001, with funding from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources as part of the renovation of Edgewater Park. This conservation and education project is organized by The Sculpture Center.

prepared by Steve Goldrich



Center Summer Fun @ The Sculpture

A Day in the Life of Sculpture
Saturday June 2, 2001
In the parking lot of the Center
12pm - 4pm

Our Eyes on Cleveland
Saturday June 9, 2001
Parade the Circle Celebration
Wade Oval, University Circle
11 - 4pm

Visit

A Day in the Life of Sculpture

Last summer our Parade the Circle event was designated as our first ever "Sculpture Day." Our second annual "Sculpture Day", will take place **Saturday, June 2, 2001** in the parking lot of The Sculpture Center, which will be transformed into a learning and creating environment dedicated to promoting the importance of sculpture in our lives. *A Day in the Life of Sculpture* is free and open to the public. It will take place from noon until 4pm. The four sections of this outdoor, hands-on, interactive celebration showcase the creation, meaning, preservation, and maintenance of sculpture. Activities including our famous "Sculpture Ring Toss" will add to the day's events.

In the spirit of summer fun, we have developed some great outdoor activities. We would like to invite you to join us at the center for two Saturdays in June.

Both events are free and open to the public.

FUN

Fancy Nonsense

On **Saturday, June 9**, Wade Oval will be transformed into a sea of fancy nonsense for this year's Parade the Circle Celebration. The Sculpture Center and Lake View Cemetery are teaming up to present a fun-filled activity for visitors to our booth. Our activity, entitled "Our Eyes on Cleveland", will allow each visitor to fill a window of a large version of the Terminal Tower with their own self-portrait using paper, crayons, and paint. This sculpture will be on display at Lake View Cemetery during their exhibition "Celebration of the Spirit" following Parade the Circle. If you can help with the preparation or on the day of the event, please let us know!

FUN

FUN

THE SCULPTURE CENTER

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www.sculpturecenter.org

gallery hours: Mon-Fri 10-4, Sat 12-4

11th Anniversary Exhibition



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THE SCULPTURE CENTER

Chairman

David E. Davis

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Bill Jirousek

Staff

Sarah Bodnar: Development

Juilee Decker: Conservation Program Coordinator

Carol Gill: Ohio Outdoor Sculpture Inventory (OOSI)

Matthias Minnig: Gallery Preparator + Designer

Nathaniel Parsons: Exhibitions + Programs Coordinator

Volunteers

Steve Goldrich: Cataloguing and OOSI

Carolyn Jirousek: Programs

Al Krueger: Ohio Outdoor Sculpture Inventory

Susan Leggett: Ohio Outdoor Sculpture Inventory

Meredith Pest: conservation

Alita Pierson: Ohio Outdoor Sculpture Inventory

Mission

The Sculpture Center is dedicated to enhancing our community's appreciation of sculpture by fostering the careers of emerging sculptors and promoting the preservation of outdoor sculpture.

Office Volunteer Needed

Currently we are looking for some one to help with the **Ohio Outdoor Sculpture Inventory**.

If you have time to write letters and make contact with various agencies that control public sculptures, you're the one. Summer is our big push time, please contact:

Nathaniel Parsons (216)229-6527

In addition to the many individual contributors to our annual fund THE SCULPTURE CENTER's programs are funded by Bernice and David E. Davis and The Ohio Arts Council



Ohio Arts Council