

Living in the present moment Hans Van de Bovenkamp



As exhibited at the Bernarducci. Meisel gallery in NYC 2011



"Manhattan Portal" 2011 bronze 12'H x 45'W x 8'D

Recreating Sacred Space

Since time immortal, says religious historian Mircea Eliade, human beings have created "sacred spaces." The urge, he says, springs from the primordial depths of the psyche. People need places that are apart from the daily bustle of the marketplace. It is really the mood that creates the space. What is "sacred" is the attitude in which the mind is encouraged to contemplate each object and event against the backdrop to the endlessly fascinating mystery that is the actual matrix of our being. It is impossible to emerge unchaged from such an encounter.

People throughout the ages have set the space aside by a variety of devices: from drawing a circle in the sand or etching it on a cathedral floor; to hanging cords and paper streamers and raising a Tori gate through which you must pass to enter, as they do in Japan; to designating a "Holy of holies" deep within a temple in ancient Jerusalem, into which only certain high priests may go.

With these "bounding" rituals, a different frame of reference, or, if you will, "frame of reverence," is established, in which the normal doings of the world are set aside. "The world is hung with banners," says mythologist Joseph Campell, "...heavy thinkers are to remain without. For the whole purpose of entering a sanctuary or participating a festival, is that one should be overtaken by the state known in India as "the other mind" (anya manas) where one is...spellbound, set apart from one's logic of self-possession."

As a mythologist, I recognized from the beginning of our relationship this same primordial impulse in the work of my friend and neighbor, HansVan de Bovenkamp: the human urge to make sacred space. What first caught my attention was just the elegant way that Hans set up spaces, – functional workshops and studios in dusty old barns and chicken coops that had been abandoned. In those days Hans did much of the work himself. We would come to visit and find him crouched over a steel sculpture, or a cement mixer, up on a ladder, or driving a rickety old crane around his sculpture gardens like a mad inventor among his giant steel question marks.

Essay by Steve Larsen



"Stargazer" 1989 Stainless Steel $144"H \times 96"W \times 65"D$

Around Hans, my wife, Robin (also an artist) and I have observed environments transform: ramshackle, weedy places achieve a new dignity, lawns are mowed, and ponds created. Set among the studios and houses, his whimsical sculptures resemble frozen archetypes, or space-age steel Moai, like those of Easter Island.

Sometimes I would experience "creativity vertigo" around my friend's relentless self-actualization. His soul seemed always to be spilling over with images and ideas. I would bring him a copy of my latest book I had written, and he would show me enormous steel creations that required derricks to erect in public plazas all over Europe and America. In the midst of all this work, he has created an elegant new apartment in a hayloft, visited Barbados and Bali, hung out with Mick Jagger and Ram Dass, and accompanied Joan Halifax to North Vietnam. My own arena had been depth psychology and psychotherapy, using words and images. Hans" work involves transformations of matter. Each time we came to visit his place, we would be treated to an elegant new environment,—renewed every couple of years — in which to lounge, and taste all the wonderful things of life — good food and drink and lots of mind play — as we enticed each other into new creative visions or paroxysms of laughter.

In making sacred space, one must leave room for emptiness, for that is where the spirit enters, like the breath in the vowel between the consonants of Hebrew sacred scripture. As Campell says sacred space is to set aside "the normal attitude toward the cares of the world." Wisely, Hans leaves places among his sculptures in which one can contemplate, play, dream., and also – perhaps subversively—inserts them into the marketplace itself. You take in a little *sunyata*, emptiness, with each glance at a gleaming sky-reflecting steel enigma. His sculpture-ciphers sometimes resemble the curious question marks on Buddhist *stupas*, like the giant one at Bodhinath, Nepal. Hans achieves sacred space effortlessly, by leaving it alone and surrounding it with a beautiful unspoken invitation.

The principle is exemplified in his design of an extraordinary meditation temple now completed at the Omega Institute. It is a compelling exercise in comtemplative architecture and interior design. The mind is quieted, the senses



"Cloudkicker" 2005 Stainless Steel 128" H x 79" H x 97"D

soothed; we hear a bellring in an empty sky.

Once Hans came to me to share a new idea. He wanted to create giant tables in the middle of nowhere, the top perhaps to be achieved by a strange surreal ladder, as if in a giant's kitchen, with celestial cloud shapes all around. This vision coincided, by one of these Jungain synchronicities, with my own peculiar study of the use of mesas, symbolic tables by South American shamanism. In this unique tradition, the magician sets up a small table like a sanctuary, with all of his "power objects", talismans of personal power, on it. The table is a symbolic replica of the cosmos, of the whole world. (There is actually a version of this concept in North America, in the symbolic sand paintings of the Navajo, and in the high Himalayas, near Tibet, where at 15,000 feet Robin and I had seen Buddhist priests painting a mandala in sand. Here, in sacred space, you realize that you stand in vastness, symbolically connected to everything.

Hans did indeed create his tables and I laugh with joy every time I see them. In terms of his whole artistic corpus they may now be recognized as an elegant stage in his own creative developement.

About ten years ago, Hans was staying in Bali, one of his favorite destinations around the world. Sitting in the elegant teakwood temples, of the island paradise, he thought, what if I brought some temples to Tillson? After consulting with his Balinese friend, Amir Rabik, craftsmen were commissioned to build three traditional teakwood temples, which were shipped to the United States. To receive them Hans created a quarter acre pond and beautifully manicured landscape. The temple-dwelling have since become a local ledgend and constitute tours de force of traditional and innovative methods. The buildings nestling around the little lake, silent witnesses to Hans' amazing vision.

I picture Hans rising at dawn like Hephaestos, the Greek divine craftsman. In the early morning sunlight, he begins to wrest shapes, great or small, out of steel or bronze. The productive work clamours through the day, following the sun in its course over the sky. By dusk the hammers, forges and welders are silent. The master sits in his quiet, graceful temple and visits with a client or friends. This man has not only learned how to live well, but how to share well.

As a young psychologist, I diagnosed Hans with "positive paranoia," the outrageous belief that the universe is conspiring in your favor. Our old friend



the mythologist, Joe Campbell said, "Follow your bliss!" and doors will open for you, that you didn't even know were there." It was Campell at his most artless, simply describing how his own life had worked. Hans Van de Bovenkamp's life has proven the same principle. By the core of his own being. The truth of his accomplishment is validated by the universe's blessing. Hans pitched his tabletop up toward the clouds, and found a beautiful feast perpetually spread upon it.

Steven Larsen, Ph.D. is Professor Emeritus SUNY, the author of The Mythic Imagination, and with his wife Robin, A Fire in the Mind, the Life of Joseph Campbell, and The Fashioning of Angels; Partnership as Spiritual Practice. The Larsens co-direct The Center for Symbolic Studies near New Paltz, NY.



"Olympia" 2007 Painted stainless steel 144" H × 60"W × 48"D



"Red Trunk" 2009 Painted stainless steel 150" H \times 112" W \times 104" D

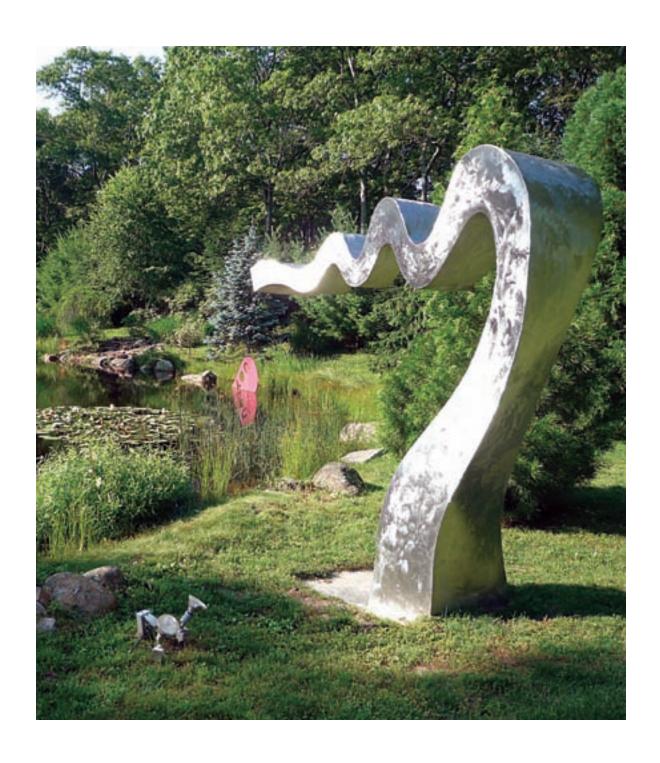


"Siv's Tiara" 2007 Stainless Steel $108" H \times 72"W \times 72"D$



"Menhir Meneer" 2009 Stainless Steel $148" \, \text{H} \times 94" \, \text{W} \times 86" \, \text{D}$







"Gaea" 2012 Bronze 95" H x 60" W x 45" D

Right "Ode to Miles" 2006 Stainless Steel 180" $H \times 96$ " $W \times 84$ " D





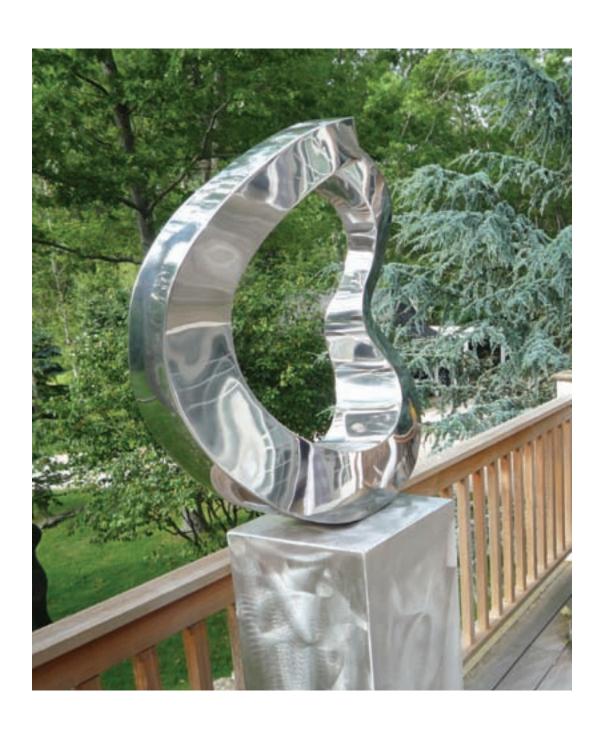
Brown Menhir 2012 Corten Steel 128" H x 79"W x 97"D

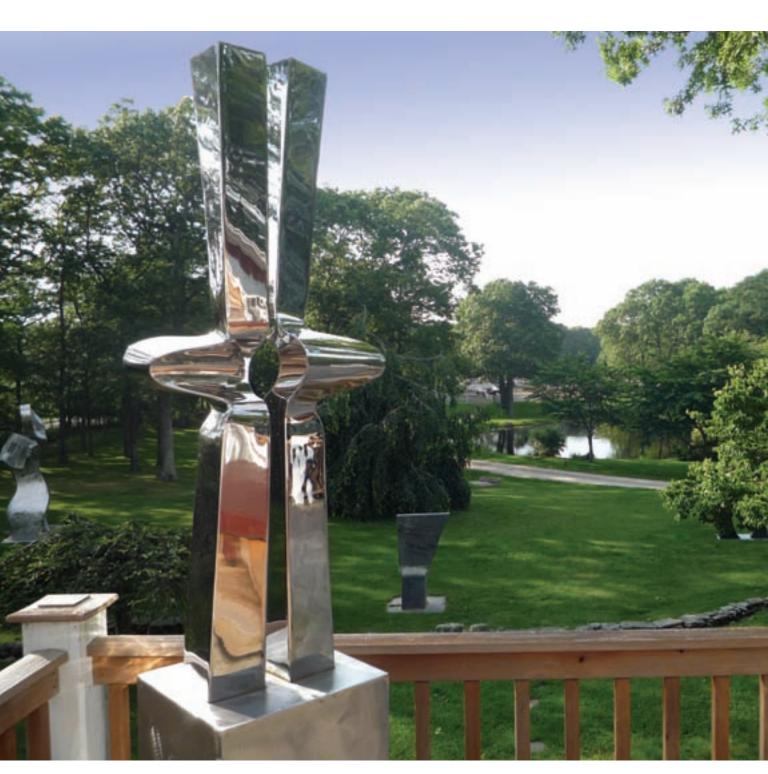




"Lost at Sea" 2010 Stainless Steel H 72" \times W 72" \times D 48"

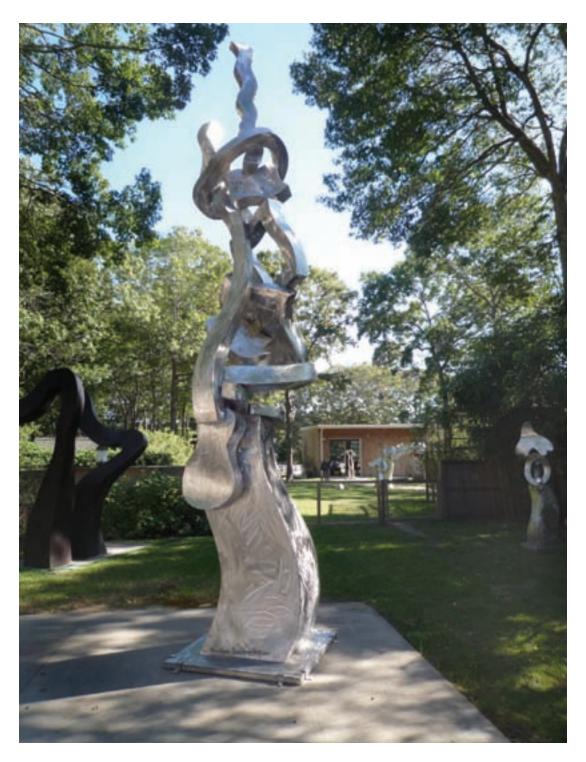






"Itzamma Stella" 1992 Polished Stainless Steel 44" H x 14"W x 9"D





"Menhir Tower" 2010 Stainless Steel 244" $H \times 48$ " $W \times 48$ " D



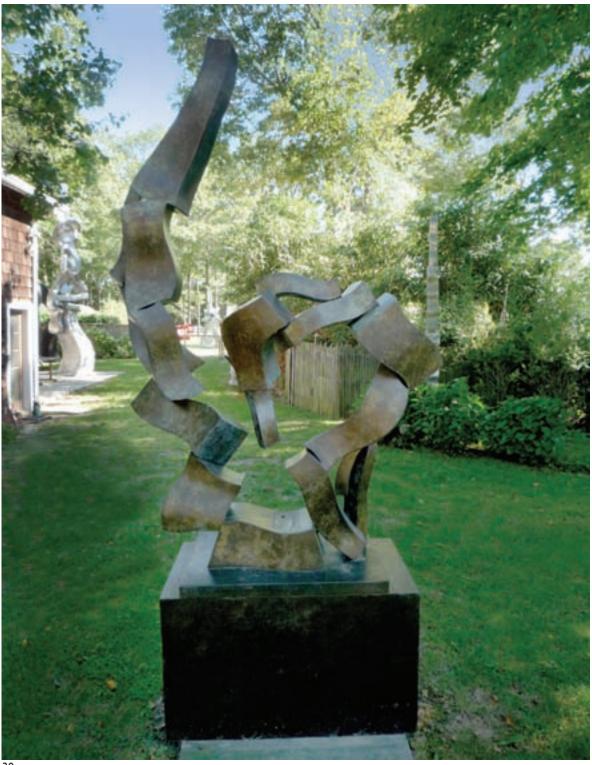
"Up & Over" Multi-patinated bronze 2013 $38"\,H \times 48"W \times 10"\,D$







"Peleus" Stainless Steel 2012 $104"H \times 55"W \times 46"D$





"The Beloved" Stainless Steel 2011 $84"H \times 120"W \times 72"D$



"Sagg Portal with Bench" Stainless Steel 2005 I 12" H \times 133" W \times 55" D



"Upside Down Portal" Stainless Steel 2017 84" H x 84" W x 21" D









"Titan Blossom" 2016 Stainless Steel 120" H x 72" W x 72" D



"Titan Anemone" 2016 Stainless Steel 108" H \times 77" W \times 70"



"Divine Cedilla" Bronze 2013 66"H × 13"W × 13" D



"Cedilla Rising" Bronze 2013 116" H × 16.5" W × 16.5" D





"Bryce Hoodoo" Bronze 2013 96" H × 20" W × 18" D





"Square" 2012 Bronze 22" H × 19" W × 12" D



"Carnac" 2010 Bronze 29" H \times 34" W \times 10" D





"Lady Grace Variation#2" 2017 Stainless Steel 79.5" H \times 38" W \times 38" D





"Oracle#7" 2012 Bronze 26" $H \times 20$ " $W \times 7$ " D



"Hope III" 2 011 Bronze 17" H x 27" W x 12" D



"Spring Tambour" 2012 Bronze $25"H \times 27"W \times 14"D$





top
"Pear Portal"
2011 Bronze
48" H x 24" W x 12" D

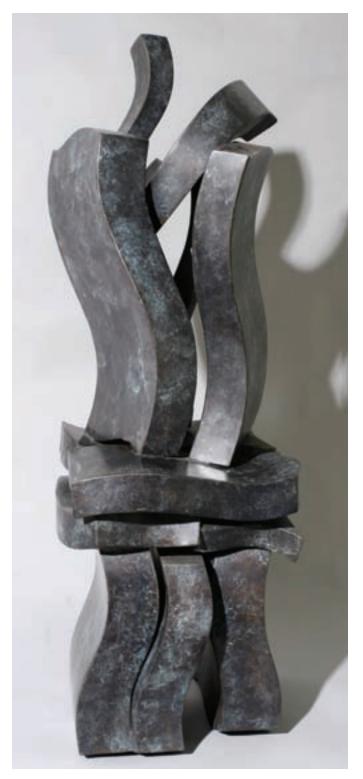
left "Rocker" 1997 Bronze 46" H × 26" W × 12" D



top "Vortex" 2011 Bronze 21.5" H × 23" W × 22" D

bottom "Winged Thought"
2012 Painted Bronze
14" H × 18" W × 10" D





below
"Apache"
2012 Painted Bronze
14" H × 18" W × 10" D



left
"Pink Amour"
2007 Bronze
57" H x 17" W x 17" D





top "Rooster #2" 2011 Bronze 16" H x 14"W x 12" D

right
"Lady Godiva Variation 3"
2011 Bronze
32" H × 18" W × 19" D





"Mensch" 2013 Stainless Steel 40.5" H x 46"W x 32.5" D



"Morning Salute" 2013 Stainless Steel 30.5" H \times 35" W \times 17" D



"Wish You Were Here" 2012 Stainless Steel 72" H \times 30" W \times 36" D



"The Emperor's Wish" 2012 Stainless Steel 64" H \times 54" W \times 19" D













"Palenque" bronze 2000 46" H \times 19" W \times 24" D



"Red Gateway" 1986 16' diameter Myriad Gardens Oklahoma, City, OK



Crescendo 1984 24' x 16' x 6'Tarrytown, NY







"Clouds" 2000 25' \times 30' Collection of the City of Toledo Toledo, OH











"Fiddlehead Fountain" 2006 Stainless Steel 12' x 12' diameter Collection of Karen and Harvey Silverman Wainscott, NY 70





"Shanghai Portal" 2010 $12' \, \text{H} \times 22' \, \text{W} \times 6' \, \text{D}$ Jing'an Sculpture Park Collection of the City of Shanghai, China





"Long Island Sound Portal" 2012 Painted Stainless Steel 12'H \times 45'W \times 8'D Greenwich CT

BRIEF BIO

Hans Van de Bovenkamp is an architectural designer and a sculptor. He has earned an international reputation over the past 50 years for designing, fabricating, installing and maintaining unique sculptures and fountains in collaboration with architects and designers. His works can be seen in public, civic, corporate and private collections. He has executed over 100 commissions.

ARTIST STATEMENT

"For me, making sculpture is both a spiritual and an artistic act. The studio is my playground, my laboratory, my sanctuary, where I practice and experiment with sculptural ideas. When I am working I am truly living in the present moment: focused and aware of choices as I make them, functioning in an elevated state between the conscious and the subconscience. Over time, I have been fortunate to gather together enough skill and vision to realize my ideas as they have come into my heart. Art for me is a way of life, not just a passion."

Selected Solo Exhibitions		Selected Group Exhibitions	
2017	Samuel Lynne Gallery, Dallas, Texas	2016	Southampton Arts Center, Southampton, NY
2016	Alfstad & Contemporary, Sarasota, FL	2016	Philippe Staib Gallery, Shanghai, China
2016	Louis Meisel Gallery, New York, New York	2016	Samuel Lynne Gallery, Dallas, Texas
2014	Wesleyan University Illinois Campus	2015	Illinois Wesleyan University Campus
2013	Adelphi University, Garden City, NY	2015	Two Sculptors on The Stroll - Rockford, IL
2013	Samuel Lynne Gallery, Dallas, Texas	2015	Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY
2011	Louis Meisel Gallery, New York, New York	2014	Philippe Staib Gallery, Taipei City, Taiwan
2011	Bernarducci Meisel Gallery, New York, New York	2014	Art Sarasota, Seafare, Sarasota, Florida
2008	Goldman Warehouse, Wynwood District, Florida	2013	Season of Sculpture, Sarasota Marine Park, Florida
2007	Sculpturesite Gallery, San Francisco, California	2012	Mark Borghi Gallery, Bridgehampton, New York
2007	Basel Miami Art Fair,	2011	Art Fair, Shanghai, China
	Goldman Warehouse, Miami, , Florida	2011	Gary Nader, Miami, Florida
2007	Basel Miami Art Fair, Gary Nader Fine Art, Miami, FL	2009	Spanierman Gallery, East Hampton , NY
2006	Danubiana Meulensteen Museum,	2008/9	ArtHampton, Bridgehampton , NY
	Bratislava, Slovakia	2007	40 Years of Central Park, Lincoln Center, NY, NY
2005-06	Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton, New Jersey	2007	Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY
2003	Louis Meisel Gallery, New York, New York	2005	Sculpturesite Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2003	Bernarducci Meisel Gallery, New York, New York	2003	Guild Hall Museum, East Hampton, New York
2003	Sagaponack Sculpture Fields, New York, New York	2000-04	City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida
1996	Michener Museum, Doyles Town, Pennsylvania	2000-04	Arlene Bujese Gallery, East Hampton, New York
1996	Camino Real Gallery, Boca Raton, Florida	1996-16	Elena Zang, Woodstock, New York
1994	Quietude Gallery, East Brunswick, New Jersey	1994-16	Cavalier Gallery, Greenwich, Connecticut
1993	Elaine Benson Gallery, Bridgehampton, New York	1999-09	Shidoni Contemporary Gallery, Tesuque, NM
1992	Shidoni Contemporary Gallery, Tesuque, NM	1999	Long Beach Museum, Long Beach, New Jersey
1981	Tiffany's, New York, New York	1996	Stamford Museum, Stamford, Connecticut
1981	University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri	1988-91	Shidoni Contemporary Gallery, Tesuque, NM
1979	Sculpture Center, New York, New York	1988	Chicago Art Fair, Navy Pier, Chicago, Illinois
1976	Brooklyn Borough Hall, New York, New York	1987	Hudson River Museum, Sculptors Guild, Yonkers, NY
1976	Arnot Art Museum, Elmira, New York	1984	Molly Barnes Gallery, Los Angeles, California
1970	Jacksonville Children's Museum, Jacksonville, Florida	1982	Oakland Museum, Oakland, California
1968	10 Downtown, New York, New York	1969-99	Elaine Benson Gallery, Bridgehampton, New York
1965	Glassboro State College, Glassboro, New Jersey	1978	PST Contemporary Art Museum, LIC, NY
1963	New York University, New York, New York	1978	Nassau County Art Museum, Roslyn Harbor, NY
1961	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan	1978	The United States Mission, New York, New York
		1977	National Academy of Design, New York, New York
		1976	American Institute of Arts & Letters, NY, NY
		1973-76	Storm King Art Center, Cornwall, New York
		1970	University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut
		1969	New York Sculptors Guild, Bryant Park, NY, NY
		1968	Loeb Student Center, New York University, NY, NY
		1968	Stamford Museum, Stamford, Connecticut
		1964	Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, Texas

Awards

- 2003 Best Sculpture Award, Guild Hall, East Hampton, NY
- 1996-04 Listing, Who Is Who in American Art
- 1996 Sanctuary Design Competition, Omega Holistic Health Institute, Rhinebeck, New York
- 1976 Exhibition, American Institute Arts & Letters, NY, NY
- 1976 Nebraska Bicentennial Sculpture Competition, Sydney, Nebraska
- 1964 Emily Lowe Sculpture Award, New York, New York

Selected Corporate Collections

2011	Louis Meisel, Watermill, New York
2009	Manhattan House, New York, New York
2005	Stamford, Connecticut (9 Fiddleheads)
2001	Corporate Business Park, Columbia, Maryland
1995	Litwin Building, Wall Street, New York, New York
1995	Goldman Properties, 110 Greene Street, NY, NY
1993	Mayer Collection, Denver, Colorado
1992	Hyatt Regency, Paris, France
1990	Marina Village, Alameda, California
1988	Amli Realty Corporation, Chicago, Illinois
1986	Haverstraw Marina, Haverstraw, New York
1984	Christiania, Tarrytown, New York
1980	Litwin Building, 72nd & 2nd Ave., NY, NY
1977	Cargill, Minneapolis, Minnesota
1967	Gaslight Tower, Atlanta, Georgia
1966	Georgetown Plaza Building, New York, New York
1966	Levitt Headquarters, Lake Success, New York

Selected Major Commissions

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1966	"Mushroom Water Garden" Copper 12' x 60		
	Levitt Headquarters Lake Success, NY		
1984	"Crescendo" 24' x 16' x 6' Tarrytown, NY		
1986	"Mariner's Gateway" 35' x 34' x 12' Haverstraw, NY		
1988	"Spring Mist" stainless steel 30' Itasca, IL		
1991	"Menos" stainless steel 25' x 10' 6'		
	Texas A&M university		
2001	"Trinity" 26' x 24' stainless steel		
	Corporate Office Properties Columbia, MD		
2005	"Flight" bronze 27' x 25' diameter		
	R.J. Kirk Roanoke, VA		
2007	"Stella in the Wind" 2007 12' x 15' x 15'		
	Bridgehampton, NY		
2008	"Green Thunder" 14' x 8' x 3' Meisel Watermill, NY		
2012	"Long Island Sound Portal" painted bronze		
	12' x 4' x 8' Greenwich CT		
2015	"Lady Grace" Stainless Steel		
	10.5' x 4' x 4' The Grace Building New York, NY		

Museum Collections

Miniature Museum Amsterdam, Holland Guild Hall East Hampton, NY Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton, New Jersey Danubiana Meulensteen Museum, Bratislava, Slovakia Miami University Art Museum, Oxford, Ohio Boca Raton Museum of Art, Boca Raton, Florida Estate of Nelson Rockefeller, Kykuit, New York Lowe Art Museum, Coral Gables, Florida Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, Ohio

Municipal Collections

2011	Jing'an Park, Shanghai, China
2001	City of Toledo, Ohio
1999	Mt. Sinai Hospital, Miami, Florida
1992	Myriad Gardens, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
1988	City of Ormond Beach, Florida
1988	City Hall, Voorhees, New Jersey
1983	State Capitol Plaza, Lansing, Michigan
1976	I-80 Nebraska Bicentennial, Sidney, Nebraska
1972	Jewish Institute for Geriatrics Care,
	Lake Success, New York

University Collections

Pratt Institute Brooklyn, New York
City University of New York,
Staten Island Community College, New York, New York
Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, New York
Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas
Towson University Art Center, Towson, Maryland
University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri
Wheeling Jesuit University, Wheeling, West Virginia

Gallery Representation

Alfstad & Contemporary

1419 5th Street Sarasota, FL 34236 941.366.6400 www.www.alfstadand

Baker Sponder Gallery

608 Banyan Trail Boca Raton, FL 33431 561.241.3050 www.bakerspondergallery.com

Bernarducci. Meisel Gallery

37 West 57th Street New York, New York 212.593.3757 www.bernarducci.meisel.gallery.com

Ron Cavalier Gallery GREENWICH

405 Greenwich Avenue Greenwich, Connecticut 06830 203.869.3664

NANTUCKET

34 Main Street Nantucket, Massachusetts 02554 508.325.4405 www.cavaliergalleries.com

Louis K. Meisel Gallery

141 Prince Street New York, New York 10012 212.677.1340 www.meiselgallery.com

Gary Nader Fine Art

62 NE 27th Street Miami, FL 33137 305.576.0256 www.garynader.com

Philippe Staib Gallery

m50, 4-102 Moganshon Rd. Shanghai, China 86 21 6298 0729 www.philippestaibgallery.com

Quogue Gallery

44 Quogue Street Quogue, NY 11959 631.653.6236 QuogueGallery.com

Samuel Lynne Galleries

I 105 Dragon Street Dallas, TX 75207 214.965.9027 www.samuellynne.com

Sculpturesite, Inc.

23588 Arnold Drive Sonoma, CA 95476 707.933.1300 www.sculpturesite.com

Vincent Vallarino Fine Art

222 East 49th Street New York, NY 10022 212.628.0722 www.vallarinofineart.com

Elena Zang Gallery

3671 Route 212 Woodstock, NY 12407 845.679.5432 www.elenazang.com

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS Geralyne Lewandowski, Designer, was awarded a national merit scholarship to Pratt Institute where she received a BFA (with honors) in Communication Arts. Her accomplishments include a CLIO nomination, several succesful advertising campaigns, numerous catalogue and book designs and websites. Transplanted from Manhattan, she currently lives and works in East Hampton, NY. She has worked with Hans since 2001. Dan Budnik, Photographer, was born in 1933. Photographer of artists of the New York Abstract Expressionist Movement from 1959 till present. He has documented extensively the work of Willem De Kooning, Georgia O'Keefe, David Smith, Jasper Johns and Robert Rauschenburg. He has also photographed civil rights marches, notably the March on Washington and the Selma to Washington March. He has been working with Native Americans on human rights and environmental issues. He lives in Flagstaff, Arizona. Kevin Miller is a master craftsman in patina and fabrication. He has worked with Hans since 1994. We wish to thank Susan Meisel, Gary Mamay and Denise C. Moore for their contributions to this book.