



*Hans Van de Bovenkamp*

Limited Edition Hand Fabricated Sculptures



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## Recreating Sacred Space

### The Work of Hans Van de Bovenkamp

Since time immemorial, human beings have created “sacred space.” According to religious historian Mircea Eliade, the urge springs from the primordial depths of the psyche. Such places are necessarily set apart from daily life and the bustle of the marketplace.

Setting aside hallowed ground can be done in a variety of ways: by drawing a circle in the sand or etching it on a cathedral floor; by hanging cords and paper streamers around it or creating a gate through which you must pass in order to reach it, and by creating a “holy of holies” deep within a temple, into which only certain high priests or priestesses may go. With these “bounding” rituals, a different frame of reference or “reverence” is established, the normal doings of the world is set aside, and you can foster a sense of the divine.

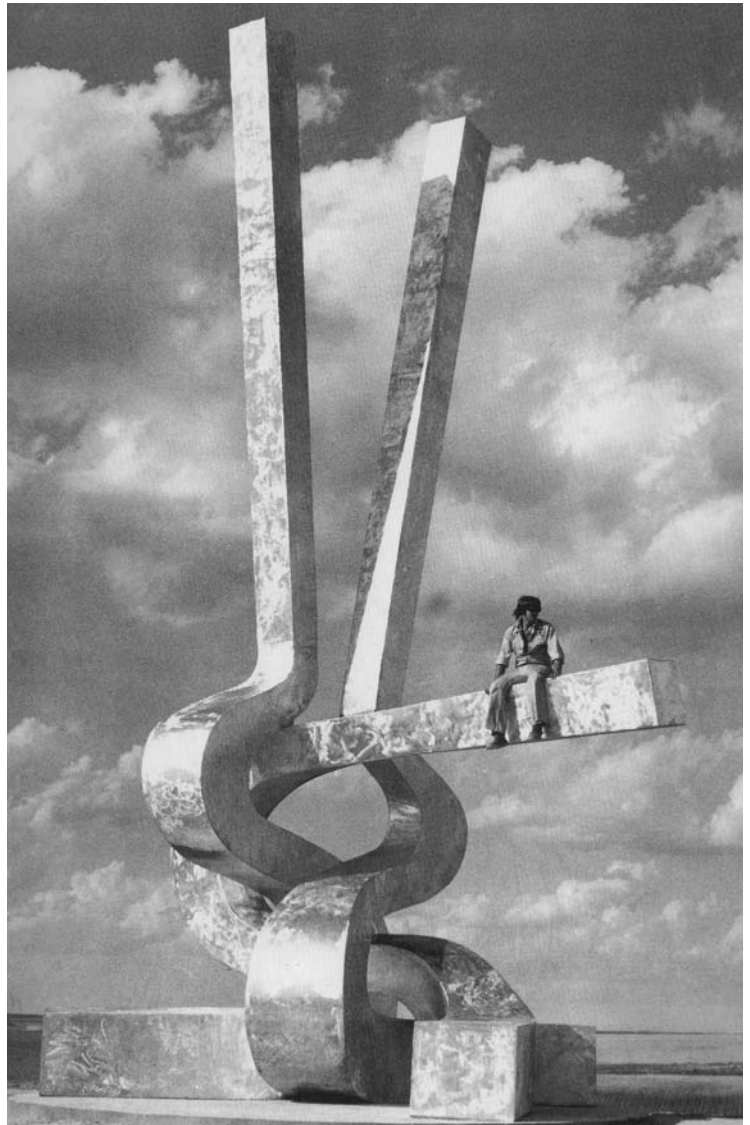
As a mythologist, I recognized this same primordial impulse, the human urge to create sacred space, in the work of my friend and neighbor, Hans Van de Bovenkamp. At first, my wife, Robin, and I noticed and admired the elegant and precise way Hans created functional workshops and studios in dusty old barns and abandoned chicken coops. In the beginning, Hans did much of the labor himself. We would come to visit and find him crouched over a welder or a cement mixer; up on a ladder; or like a mad inventor, driving a rickety old crane around his towering, steel question marks. In fact, it seemed that each time Robin and I visited, we were treated to an elegant new environment, in which to lounge and taste the wonderful things of life; good food and drink—and lots of mind play—as we enticed each other into new creative visions amid paroxysms of laughter.

Because environments did transform around Hans: ramshackle buildings and weedy fields achieved a new dignity, problematic wetlands became a parkland of serpentine grass labyrinths, undulating burms, and reflecting ponds. And everywhere, in and around the studios and pavilions, his often whimsical sculptures clustered like frozen archetypes and space-age steel Moai.

Sometimes I have experienced a kind of creative vertigo around my friend's relentless self-actualization. His soul seems to be spilling over with images and ideas. I would bring him a copy of the latest book I had written, and he would show me steel creations that, with the help of derricks, would be erected in public plazas in Europe and America.

In sacred space, you must leave emptiness, for that is where the spirit can enter, like breath into the spaces between the consonants of Hebrew sacred scripture. Wisely, Hans leaves places among his sculptures to contemplate, to play, to dream.

Campbell says that traditionally sacred space functions to set aside “the normal attitude toward the cares of the world.” But Hans Van de Bovenkamp—perhaps subversively—inserts his shrine-like landmarks or “energy spots” even into the marketplace itself. For instance, his intent in placing a twenty-foot sculpture beside a thirty-story building is to humanize the architecture, minimizing its scale, and make the setting more intimate. Viewers take in a little sunyata, emptiness, with each glance at the gleaming sky-reflecting steel enigma. His sculpture-ciphers sometimes resemble the curious question marks on Buddhist stupas, such as the colossus at Bodhinath, Nepal.



Once Hans came to me to share a new idea. He wanted to create gigantic tables in the middle of nowhere, the top perhaps to be reached by a ladder, as if to a giant's dwelling, surrounded by celestial cloud shapes. The project coincided, by one of these Jungian synchronicities, with my own study of the use of mesas, symbolic tables in South American shamanism. In this tradition, the magician sets up a small table-like sanctuary, upon which he places all of his "power objects," talismans of personal power. These mesas are symbolic replicas of the cosmos; the whole world is represented on its surface.

Versions of the sacred table occur in North America, in the sand paintings of the Navajo, and we have witnessed Buddhist priests painting a mandala in sand in the high Himalayas, near Tibet. Standing there in sacred space we realized that we were symbolically connected to everything. Confronted with Van de Bovenkamp's magical forms, the cosmos is present right here—in New York, Kansas City, Miami, or Zurich, even in the secular city with its complex architecture.

Usually Hans is clear about what he is doing, as in the extraordinary meditation temple he designed for Omega Institute. Within this compelling combination of contemplative architecture and interior design, the mind is quieted, the senses soothed—we hear a bell ringing in an empty sky.

A similar sense of purpose visited Hans eight years ago in Bali, where he had three traditional teak and ironwood temples built in order to disassemble them and have them shipped to the US, so he could reassemble the two thousand four hundred

pieces by a lake he made on his property. This temple-dwelling has become a tour-de-force of traditional and innovative architectural methods, its buildings nestling like silent witnesses to the surrounding marvels, his own creations, contemporary art, and Buddhist and Hindu objects and deities.

I picture Hans rising like Hephaestus, the Greek divine craftsman, in the early morning sunlight, and beginning to wrest shapes, great or small, out of steel, bronze, and copper. By evening, the hammers, forges and welders are silent. The master sits in his quiet, graceful temple and visits with clients or friends. This man has not only learned how to live well, but how to share well.

As our old friend Joe Campbell said, "Follow your bliss!" and doors will open for you, that you didn't even know were there." It was Campbell at his most artless, simply describing how his own life had worked. Hans Van de Bovenkamp has trod a similar path, underscoring the same principle.

As a young psychologist, I diagnosed Hans with "positive paranoia," the outrageous belief that the universe is conspiring in your favor. Like the core of his being, the truth and clarity of his accomplishment is validated by the blessing of the universe. Hans pitched his table-top 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.*

Limited Edition Hand Fabricated Sculptures is accompanied with its own Certificate of Authenticity



*Hans Van de Bovenkamp*  
*Certificate of Authenticity*  
**“Crescendo”**

Edition \_\_\_\_ of 25  
Casted Bronze Sculpture

\_\_\_\_\_  
by Hans Van de Bovenkamp

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:





**Cloud**

Limited Edition Hand Casting 2014  
Polished Bronze with 220 Grit Finish

11" H x 5.5" W x 2.5" D

Edition of 25



**Crescendo**

Limited Edition Hand Casting 2014  
Polished Bronze with 220 Grit Finish

9" H x 5" W x 2.5" D

Edition of 25



**Rocker**

Limited Edition Hand Casting 2014  
Polished Bronze with 220 Grit Finish

7.25" H x 4" W x 1" D

Edition of 25



**Gateway**

Limited Edition Hand Casting 2014  
Polished Bronze with 220 Grit Finish

4.25" H x 4" W x 1" D

Edition of 25



**Cloud**

Limited Edition Hand Casting 2014  
Bronze Patina over 220 Grit Finish

10.75" H x 2.5" W x 2.75" D

Edition of 25



**Crescendo**

Limited Edition Hand Casting 2014  
Bronze Patina over 220 Grit Finish

9.25" H x 5.25" W x 2.625" D

Edition of 25



**Rocker**

Limited Edition Hand Casting 2014  
Bronze Patina over 220 Grit Finish

7.25" H x 4" W x 1" D

Edition of 25



**Rocker**

Large Solid Bronze Hand Casting 2014  
Bronze Patina over 220 Grit Finish

13" H x 7" W x 2" D

Edition of 25





**Apollo**

Hand Fabricated Series 2014  
Bronze Patina over 220 Grit Finish

13"H x 6.25" W x 4.5" D

Hand Fabricated Series of 9



### **Ganesh**

Limited Edition Hand Fabricated 2014  
Bronze Patina over 220 Grit Finish

14" H x 9" W x 7.5" D

Limited Edition Hand Fabricated Series of 9



**In The Balance**

Hand Fabricated 2014  
Bronze Patina over 220 Grit Finish

16.5" H x 7" W x 5.5" D

Limited Edition Hand Fabricated Series of 9



**Athena**

Hand Fabricated 2014  
Bronze Patina over 220 Grit Finish

17" H x 7" W x 4" D

Limited Edition Hand Fabricated Series of 9



**The Kiss**

Limited Edition Hand Fabricated 2014  
Bronze Patina over 220 Grit Finish

17" H x 7" W x 7" D

Series of 9



**Troubadour**

Hand Fabricated 2014  
Bronze Patina over 220 Grit Finish

18.25" H x 9" W x 5" D

Series of 9



**Itzamana Stella**

Limited Edition Hand Casting 2014  
Bronze Patina over 220 Grit Finish

14" H x 4.25" W x .2.75" " D

Edition of 25



**Tree**

Limited Edition Hand Casting 2014  
Bronze Patina over 220 Grit Finish

7.25" H x 2.5" diameter

Edition of 25





**Stella in the Wind**

Limited Edition Hand Casting 2014  
Bronze Patina with 220 Grit Finish

8" H x 8" W x 3.5" D

Edition of 25



**Mini Portal**

Limited Edition Hand Casting 2014  
Bronze Patina with 220 Grit Finish

8" H x 8" W x 3.5" D

Edition of 25



**Floating Figure**

Hand Fabricated Series 2014  
Polished Aluminum with Clear Plexiglass

7" H x 12" W x 1.5 D" diameter

Hand Fabricated Series of 9



**TriCycle**

Limited Edition Hand Fabricated 2015  
Bronze Patina over 220 Grit Finish • Also Available in Polished Bronze

13" H x 13" W x 12" D

Limited Edition Hand Fabricated Series of 9



**Reclining Figure**

Limited Edition Hand Casting 2014  
Bronze Patina over 220 Grit Finish

3" H x 2.5" W x 6.5" D

Edition of 25

## Gallery Representation

### **Baker Sponder Gallery**

608 Banyan Trail  
Boca Raton, FL 33431  
561.241.3050  
[www.bakerspondergallery.com](http://www.bakerspondergallery.com)

### **Bernarducci.Meisel Gallery**

37 west 57th Street  
New York, New York  
212.593.3757  
[www.bernarducci.meisel.gallery.com](http://www.bernarducci.meisel.gallery.com)

### **Mark Borghi Fine Art**

#### **NEW YORK**

52 E 76th Street,  
New York, New York 10021  
212.439.6425

#### **BRIDGEHAMPTON**

2426 Main Street,  
Bridgehampton, New York 11932  
631.537.7245

#### **PALM BEACH**

255 Worth Avenue  
Palm Beach, Florida 33480  
561.328.9504  
[www.borghi.org](http://www.borghi.org)

### **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](http://www.cavaliergalleries.com)

### **Louis K. Meisel Gallery**

141 Prince Street  
New York, New York 10012  
212.677.1340  
[www.meisलगallery.com](http://www.meisलगallery.com)

### **Gary Nader Fine Art**

62 NE 27th Street  
Miami, FL 33137  
305.576.0256  
[www.garynader.com](http://www.garynader.com)

### **Philippe Staib Gallery**

m50, 4-102 Moganshon Rd.  
Shanghai, China  
86 21 6298 0729  
[www.philipestaibgallery.com](http://www.philipestaibgallery.com)

### **Samuel Lynne Galleries**

1105 Dragon Street  
Dallas, TX 75207  
214 965.9027  
[www.samuellynnne.com](http://www.samuellynnne.com)

### **Sculpturesite, Inc.**

23588 Arnold Drive  
Sonoma, CA 95476  
707.933.1300  
[www.sculpturesite.com](http://www.sculpturesite.com)

### **Vincent Vallarino Fine Art**

120 East 65th Street  
New York, NY 10021  
212.628.0722  
[www.vallarinofineart.com](http://www.vallarinofineart.com)

### **Elena Zang Gallery**

3671 Route 212  
Woodstock, NY 12407  
845.679.5432  
[www.elenazang.com](http://www.elenazang.com)

## 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 subconscious. 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

2013 Adelphi University, Garden City, NY  
2013 Samuel Lynne Gallery, Dallas, Texas  
2012 Lyceum Gallery, Northampton, New York  
2011 Louis Meisel Gallery, New York, New York  
2011 Bernarducci Meisel Gallery, New York, New York  
2008 Goldman Warehouse, Wynwood District, Florida  
2007 Sculpturesite Gallery, San Francisco, California  
2007 Basel Miami Art Fair,  
Goldman Warehouse, Miami, , Florida  
2007 Basel Miami Art Fair, Gary Nader Fine Art, Miami, FL  
2006 Danubiana Meulenstein Museum,  
Bratislava, Slovakia  
2005-06 Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton, New Jersey  
2003 Louis Meisel Gallery, New York, New York  
2003 Bernarducci Meisel Gallery, New York, New York  
2003 Sagaponack Sculpture Fields, New York, New York  
1996 Michener Museum, Doylestown, Pennsylvania  
1996 Camino Real Gallery, Boca Raton, Florida  
1994 Quietude Gallery, East Brunswick, New Jersey  
1993 Elaine Benson Gallery, Bridgehampton, New York  
1992 Shidoni Contemporary Gallery, Tesuque, NM  
1981 Tiffany's, New York, New York  
1981 University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri  
1979 Sculpture Center, New York, New York  
1976 Brooklyn Borough Hall, New York, New York  
1976 Arnot Art Museum, Elmira, New York  
1970 Jacksonville Children's Museum, Jacksonville, Florida  
1968 10 Downtown, New York, New York  
1965 Glassboro State College, Glassboro, New Jersey  
1963 New York University, New York, New York  
1961 University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

### Selected Group Exhibitions

2015 Alfstad& Gallery, Sarasota, FL  
2014 Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL  
2014 Philippe Staib Gallery, Taipei City, Taiwan  
2014 Art Sarasota, Seafare, Sarasota, Florida  
2013 Season of Sculpture VIII, Sarasota Marine Park, Florida  
2012 Mark Borghi Gallery, Bridgehampton, New York  
2011 Art Fair, Shanghai, China  
2011 Gary Nader, Miami, Florida  
2009 Spanierman Gallery, East Hampton, NY  
2009/8 ArtHampton, Bridgehampton, NY  
2007 40 Years of Central Park, Lincoln Center, NY, NY  
2007 Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY  
2005 Sculpturesite Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
2000-04 City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida  
2000-04 Arlene Bujese Gallery, East Hampton, New York  
1996-11 Elena Zang, Woodstock, New York  
1994-11 Cavalier Gallery, Greenwich, Connecticut  
2003 Guild Hall Museum, East Hampton, New York  
1999-09 Shidoni Contemporary Gallery, Tesuque, NM  
1999 Long Beach Museum, Long Beach, New Jersey  
1996 Stamford Museum, Stamford, Connecticut  
1988-91 Shidoni Contemporary Gallery, Tesuque, NM  
1988 Chicago Art Fair, Navy Pier, Chicago, Illinois  
1987 Hudson River Museum, Sculptors Guild, Yonkers, NY  
1984 Molly Barnes Gallery, Los Angeles, California  
1982 Oakland Museum, Oakland, California  
1969-99 Elaine Benson Gallery, Bridgehampton, New York  
1978 PSI Contemporary Art Museum, Long Island City, NY  
1978 Nassau County Art Museum, Roslyn Harbor, NY  
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**

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  
2014 WR Grace Building, New York, New York

## **Museum Collections**

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**

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



