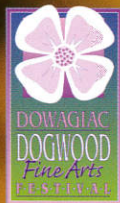


the dedication
of
sunflower



may 15, 2006
dowagiac, michigan

About the Artist



Fritz Olsen, nationally recognized American artist, creates quality sculptures for public and private placement. Throughout the past 22 years, his exceptional works in stone and bronze have provided a direct link to the mid-west landscapes which have influenced and inspired him from his childhood years in Illinois up to the present day.

Original sculptures by Fritz Olsen may be found in two permanent museum collections to date. The Krasl Museum of Saint Joseph, Michigan, added "*Bouquet*" created of Georgian pink marble to its collection in 1999, and "*Garden Window II*" became a permanent addition to the Kohl Children's Museum of greater Chicago in the spring of 2006.

Upon graduating from Eastern Illinois University in 1983, Fritz Olsen established his studio in Chicago on Industrial Goose Island. During this time, the artist was selected by the Chicago Neurosurgical Center to design and execute the prestigious "*Decade of the Brain Award*" from 1990 to 2000.

Fritz Olsen's site-specific public commissions include works on a grand scale such as "*Cactus Flower*" created for the Westin Resorts in Rancho Mirage, California, and in 2003, "*Lake Michigan Bench*" and "*Phoenix*" were installed as a permanent part of the light filled atrium of the newly constructed Lakeland Hospital Outpatient Facility in Benton Harbor, Michigan.

"A sophisticated study of movement permitting a piece of stone to mimic the sinuous characteristics of wind on water" describes "*Ripples*" found on the campus of Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan; and the Frankfort, Illinois, public library commissioned Fritz in 2004 to create "*Schoolgirl with Books*," the largest rendition of the artist's charmingly heroic schoolgirl encompassed by large stone books which double as delightful benches for children to sit upon.

The sculptural works of Fritz Olsen may best be described as dynamic, inherently positive forms, inviting interaction and an uplifting aesthetic to the environments they inhabit. Today, Fritz Olsen maintains his studio and sculpture gardens in rural Sawyer, Michigan, in an historic 1930's azalea nursery.



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Sunflower is a gift from the Dan and Katherine Brosnan Family
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Teresa and Dick Kelly

"The Sunflower holds a significant place in history, art and in the symbolism of many cultures throughout the world. My "Sunflower" is carved of Vermont white marble, and symbolizes hope, life and longevity."

— Fritz Olsen, sculptor

Dale Threlkeld
Lecture and Slide Presentation
The "Real" of Abstract Art
May 15 at 7:30 p.m.
Dale A. Lyons Building
Southwestern Michigan College

You are invited to meet the artist
at a reception and gallery exhibit
following the lecture.