ISC Student Show at Grounds For Sculpture

Over 600 people attended the opening of the Fall/Winter Exhibition at Grounds For Sculpture in Hamilton, New Jersey, on October 11, 2003, which featured the 15 winners of the International Sculpture Center's 2003 Student Awards program. The exhibition will remain on view through April 18, 2004. The student winners were selected by a distinguished jury: David Collens, director of Storm King Art Center, Mountainville, New York; Tom Otterness, sculptor, New York City; and Susan Taylor, director of the Princeton Art Museum in New Jersey. The 2003 program attracted a record number of 342 nominees from faculty sponsors at 109 college and university sculpture programs in North America and abroad.

All nominees received a complimentary ISC membership for one year, and the winners were eligible to apply for the ISC Sculpture Residency in Switzerland this past summer, sponsored by Heinz and Gertrud Aeschlimann. Drew Goerlitz, whose reflections on his experience also appear on this page, was selected for the residency.

The ISC Student Awards program was established in 1994 to recognize young sculptors and to encourage their continued commitment to the field, as well as to acknowledge the important work of faculty members in nurturing the next generation of sculptors. The ISC Board of Directors extends special thanks to the sponsors of the Student Awards program, the Cinergy Foundation and the I.A. O'Shaughnessy Foundation, and to Grounds for Sculpture for its support over the past four years. The October 2003 issue of Sculpture contains a feature article about the Student Awards program.

ISC Sculpture Residency in Switzerland

In 2003, I was fortunate enough to be selected by Heinz and Gertrud Aeschlimann for a residency to work in their atelier in Zofingen and Lugano, Switzerland. Heinz is a sculptor and CEO of an international asphalt surfacing company. Gertrud owns her own business, Modern Art Advising, which consists of fine art promotion, a gallery, and, in the near future, an outdoor sculpture park near Lugano. Even though they had an enormous amount of work to attend to every day, they still found time to introduce me to galleries and museums and to show me the culture and landmarks of Switzerland.

The most valuable tool for making sculpture while I was there was the atmosphere of the place in which I found myself. The facilities in the Aeschlimann’s atelier were very accommodating: there were plenty of new materials, and above all else I had the time to make sculpture. This abundance of time was crucial because I was experimenting with a new material that is not used or available in the U.S. Heinz introduced me to gussasphalt, a cousin of asphalt. Its many phases of viscosity make it a good medium for sculpting. With new materials, many failed attempts occur before there is success. To have the time to experiment without deadlines or the static of everyday life was a very important experience for me. During my stay, my work took on a striking new look not only from the gussasphalt, but also from the influence of my surroundings.

Another important part of my residency was meeting other artists from all over Europe. Getting the chance to understand and see how culture has shaped an artist’s work was an interesting aspect of my residency. This was very apparent in the precision with which Swiss-crafted sculpture is made.

Residencies play an important role in the growth of an artist. They are a jolt from the comfort of your studio into a different atmosphere. Such sudden change affects your work: it is a growing experience that cannot be ignored. The time away from the comforts of routine makes you more inclined to take chances in your work. These chances do not necessarily produce the best work, but they enable you to grow as an artist—not only at that moment but long after the residency is over.

—Drew Goerlitz

Above: Student winner Anthony Castronovo from the University of Florida with Arlene Smith of Princeton, New Jersey. Left: Drew Goerlitz and Heinz Aeschlimann in Switzerland.