



2012 Student Award winner Adriana Corral discussing her work.

DAVID PLATTER ON HIS ISC ART-ST-URBAN RESIDENCY

This summer I spent eight weeks living and working in St. Urban, Switzerland. During my art-st-urban residency with Heinz and Gertrud Aeschlimann, not only did I work with new materials, but I also deepened my cultural understanding. South African artist Magdel Fourie of Pretoria and Polish sculptor Monika Oasiecka were also in residence. While our studio time was focused and non-verbal, mealtimes were filled with discussions about the cultures and practices of our home countries. We frequently talked about the value of critical thinking and its necessity in the arts, especially sculpture. Learning about other schools and graduate experiences helped me to appreciate the wide range of opportunities afforded by my graduate experience at the University of Kansas.

In addition to studio work, Heinz Aeschlimann offered us hands-on opportunities to work through the difficulties posed by the transport and installation of large works. During studio time, I worked with unfamiliar materials such as bitumen, gussaspalt, foam glass, and plastics, as well as a variety of welding and fabrication processes and techniques. For me, the highlights included developing techniques in welding and discovering that gussaspalt can be modeled through an approach similar to traditional clay techniques.

Heinz shared his process of working with gussaspalt as a material for artistic expression. His example inspired me to push myself past my comfort zone and attempt new ways of rendering the figure. I came to appreciate how gussaspalt, like clay, tolerates pushing and shaping, with one important difference. While clay requires patience, and the work needs time and distance from the modeling hand, gussaspalt allows for immediate manipulation—within an hour, the work has cooled and cured to a permanent state. There is no post-modeled transformation like firing. This directness, transferred through the work, reaches the viewer.

Other exceptional opportunities included experimenting with laser cutting at Senn AG with Jorg Senn, wood carving in the mountains of Ticino, and working with recycled plastic. The open, exploratory format provided me with a fresh perspective on my work and how it can expand in a post-graduate reality in which I can no longer lean on a department and school to encourage me with tools and resources.

As I move into my new studio in Kansas City, I am reminded of the drive and energy that Heinz brings to his work every day. I want to move ahead because I have had mentors who believe in me. I want to thank my mentors at KU—John Hachmeister, Jon Swindell, Matthew Burke, Dave Vertacnik, Marshall Maude, and Tanya Hartman. I appreciate the time and investment that they poured into me, which enabled me to succeed in this opportunity.

David Platter modeling with gussaspalt.



My time at art-st-urban was humbling, eye opening, exciting, exhausting, thrilling, and challenging. Through it, I met some of the kindest and most compassionate people in the world, discovered Switzerland, ate amazing food, worked in fantastic studios, and grew as an artist and as an individual. I have also discovered new ways to contribute to the greater conversation in the field of sculpture.

I sincerely thank Heinz and Gertrud Aeschlimann for supporting me and opening their home and lives. I learned so much more than I imagined possible in eight weeks, and I continue to be reminded of their insights as I work to build my studio at home. Their time, wisdom, and energy have meant a great deal to me and have made a difference in my trajectory.

—David Platter

David Platter received his MFA from the University of Kansas in 2011. He received a 2011 ISC Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Award for his thesis exhibition, "Charting the Self," and was selected for the art-st-urban residency with Heinz Aeschlimann. To see more of David Platter's work, visit <davidplatter.com>.

2012 OUTSTANDING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN CONTEMPORARY SCULPTURE AWARDS OPENING AT GROUNDS FOR SCULPTURE

October 19, 2012 marked the 14th annual Student Awards opening reception and award presentation at Grounds For Sculpture in Hamilton, NJ. Johannah Hutchison, Executive Director of the ISC, introduced the winners with great praise for their accomplishments and commitment to the field of contemporary sculpture. The students were then honored with award certificates and a cocktail reception in the Domestic Arts Building, where their work will be on display through March 2013. The show will also travel to the Bellevue Arts Museum in Bellevue, WA, in spring/summer 2013.

The 2012 competition attracted an exceptional number of participating institutions; 434 students were nominated from 174 universities, colleges, and sculpture programs. Jurors Joseph Antenucci Becherer, Chief Curator and Vice President, Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park; Donna Dennis, artist and Professor of Art, Purchase College, State University of New York; and Winifred Lutz, artist and Professor Emerita, Sculpture, Tyler School of Art, Temple University selected 12 recipients and 22 honorable mentions.

Established in 1994, the Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Award was created to recognize young sculptors and encourage their continued commitment to the field of sculpture. For more details about the student awards, or to find out about the 2013 competition, visit <www.sculpture.org>, e-mail <studentawards@sculpture.org>, or call 609.689.1051, x305.