

ANGIE SEYKORA ON HER ISC ART-ST-URBAN RESIDENCY

In May, brimming with excitement, I boarded an airplane in Omaha, Nebraska, for St. Urban, Switzerland. A recipient of the 2013 ISC Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Award, I was selected from among 12 winners to further my work at Heinz and Gertrud Aeschlimann’s fully funded, two-month Art-St-Urban residency program. Upon arriving in Switzerland, I was greeted at the airport by Heinz himself. His hospitality and generosity made me feel at home immediately. He explained the nature of this unique and intensive residency, showed me the studio, materials, and my temporary home, shared with the other resident artist, Wei Kun, from China. I was provided with a personal vehicle and given an overview of the area on the first day. The following day, I began a rigorous and rewarding studio schedule that has remained a part of my practice.



Angie Seykora and Heinz Aeschlimann at work.

Heinz Aeschlimann is an entrepreneur, engineer, and sculptor. He not only shared his outstanding studio space with Wei Kun and me, he also gave us access to his vast resources and knowledge of materials and processes. I was introduced to gussasphalt (a more waterproof form of asphalt), bitumen, PBD, steel laser cutting, and different welding and surface techniques, as well as a number of other industrial materials. From these new materials and processes, I created 14 works, which are currently on display in the exhibition “Young Sculptor of Art-St-Urban.” They will eventually be sold at an art auction arranged by the Aeschlimanns, with proceeds to fund my future studio practice and future Art-St-Urban residents.

While most of my time was spent in the studio, I stayed just as busy outside it. I traveled throughout Switzerland, both on my own and with the Aeschlimanns, through the Alps to Lake Como in Italy, then on to Basel, Zürich, and Luzern, among many other destinations. I also had the chance to assist Gertrud and Michael Suh, Executive Director of MOCA Beijing, with the installation of “Forms of the Formless,” an exhibition of Chinese contemporary art in St. Urban. At the day-long opening gala, I met several prominent Chinese artists, Chinese and Swiss ambassadors, and many arts patrons. Gertrud explained that there is always an element of “East meets West” during the residency. I felt the strength and power of this approach through the exchange of ideas with my fellow resident Wei Kun.

The outcome of my residency at Art-St-Urban has exceeded any and all expectations. The Aeschlimanns included us as members of the family, shar-

ing their time, experience, knowledge, business skills, passion for art, and love for Switzerland. I returned to the U.S. with a new understanding of efficient studio practices, material processes, and cultural appreciation. I cannot thank the Aeschlimanns enough for their profound impact on my life and career by providing me with the support, time, and resources to make my work. This residency has impacted me beyond just eight weeks in Switzerland—the things that I learned and experienced there have permeated me and will continue to impact my creative life.

Angie Seykora was nominated for the 2013 ISC Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Award by faculty sponsor D.W. Martin from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. She currently lives and works in Omaha, NE. Web site <www.angieseykora.com>.

2014 OUTSTANDING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN CONTEMPORARY SCULPTURE AWARDS OPENING AT GROUNDS FOR SCULPTURE

October 17, 2014 marked the 20th 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 of the competition with great praise for their accomplishments and commitment to the field of contemporary sculpture. The students were honored with award certificates and

a cocktail reception in the Domestic Arts Building, where their work will be on display through March 2015. Plans to travel the show are underway, and the ISC hopes to confirm future venues soon.



2014 Outstanding Student Achievement Award winners and faculty members.

The 2014 competition attracted an exceptional number of participating institutions; 374 students were nominated from 151 universities, colleges, and sculpture programs. Jurors Stefano Catalani, Director of Art, Craft & Design at the Bellevue Arts Museum in Bellevue, WA; Donald Lipski, sculptor, NY; and Kathryn Mikesell, founder of the Fountainhead Residency and Studios, Miami, FL, selected 22 recipients and 25 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 2015 competition, visit <www.sculpture.org>, e-mail <studentawards@sculpture.org>, or call 609.689.1051, x305.

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