



RUTH AIZUSS MIGDAL – WAVES

Sculpted Water

Silicon Valley Sculpture Fine Art Fair September 23rd-25th

Menlo Park, CA, September 2022 - More than 30 magnificent sculptures will be displayed this September again on the Menlo College campus in Atherton, California, during the 2022 Silicon Valley Sculpture Exhibition (SVS2022). Water is SVS2022's theme, and the fair's organizer and director, Katharina Powers, promises no drop will be wasted. Instead, sculptures will be presented with the intent to raise awareness of the acidification of the ocean, the fragility of its ecosystems, and the monumental impact water has when it is present – and when it is missing. "The future will be dry lakes and sculptures that pay tribute to the liquid gold," Powers remarks.

Sculptor Squire Broel from Oregon will display totemic structures that remind us of a fragile ecosystem and the challenges facing our natural resources: rivers, streams, and forests.

Artist Priyanka Rana from Atherton looked at maps to design a floating city in the Maldives, which found a way to combat flooding and land submergence due to climate change. Brain coral inspires this sustainable floating city design, and the city is meant to exist in harmony with natural surroundings and corals. "We need to find ingenious ways to build and learn from the

traditional wisdom (floating cities are an ancient concept found in many waterfront areas) on how to coexist with nature to embrace it rather than fighting it," she said.

Sculptor Don Porcaro from New York brings "Tempest" to Menlo College, which signifies water's power to create and erode one of the most fundamental elements of our landscape – stone. His artist statement reads: "The origins of marble, which this sculpture is built from, began with millions of years of marine life deposits. The ocean's prehistoric sea creatures were the life force of our geological and cultural landscape, from the mountains in Carrara that gave Michelangelo his marble to the quarries in Vermont that supplied the black marble for Radio City Music Hall in New York City. All the different marbles in this piece come from different parts of the world and weaving them together in this upward spiral is an aspirational expression of water's ability to give life to and blend so many disparate elements."

Since the inception of Silicon Valley Sculpture two years ago, five sculptures have been donated to the Menlo College campus. The larger-than-life art inspires Menlo students, and the campus is transforming into a cultural institution. "Einstein" was donated by the sculptor Giuseppe Palombo from Colorado last year. Einstein's demeanor is not confident but rather contemplative, the students think, a true sign of what it means to be a student. "Einstein" adds to the recent donations made by friends of the College of "Balls of Fire" by Mark Knize and "Prince" and "Princess" by Foon Sham. President Steven Weiner commented, "I am pleased to see the Menlo College campus take its place as a cultural destination, where monumental work created by artists coexists with our nature-rich setting. Our serene campus is enhanced with these donations. What's more, these donations yield results that have yet to be seen, as they inspire our students to think in new ways that could lead them to devise innovative solutions for generations to come."

A considerable success so far for the Menlo College campus, Silicon Valley Sculpture inspires installations in other private and public places throughout Silicon Valley and beyond. Over the years, citizens have acquired multiple sculptures in Atherton, Menlo Park, and Palo Alto to enhance their outdoor spaces and make statements. "Love Birds" by Palo Alto artist James Hill was installed on a large property in Atherton in front of a contemporary home, delighting the owner and guests each time they drive to the house. The fun large-scale "feather ball" by Sacramento artist Mark Foster in Corten steel landed softly at home in Menlo Park to awe visitors and **enchanted** owners alike. (The installation of origami Paper Cranes on a large Torii gate drew crowds at the beginning of SVS2021.) Collectors in Sonoma County have acquired monumental pieces every year for the SVS exhibit.

A Panel discussion, based on the theme go in many directions, including sustainability concerns. Can sculptors create environmentally friendly sculptures? Can they reduce the carbon footprint by capturing carbon? This is a question asked of sculptor Tara de la Garza, whose 3D sculptures are printed with recycled plastic.

The second day of the fair, open to the public, will end with a film screening of *Hot Water* by partner UNAFF. The screening will take place **on Saturday, September 25 at 7:00 PM** at Art Ventures Gallery. A true problem solver is a Japanese Artist Rish Saito, who will bring his "Wonderland" sculpture to life at SVS2023. His proposed project is composed of multi-scaled and directional flora that calls for celebrating the loss of beauty in the liquefaction of age and decay. That project was selected as a finalist design for International Architecture Competition - Urban Confluence Silicon (963 entries from 72 countries and six continents) in 2020 and is a prelude to SVS2023's theme "Peace AND love." **There will be a screening of the process at 6:00 PM.** Ticket holders will have entry to all events.

A highlight for people seeking to purchase a sculpture is the auction that will be held on the Menlo College campus at noon **on Sunday, September 26**. Deals are to be made, sculptures to be taken home, and water will always be present in California through meaningful sculpture.

September 23 (Friday): Open to the public from noon to 6:00 PM.

September 24 (Saturday): Open to the public from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Panel Discussion - How to create environmentally sustainable sculptures

How do sculptures today reduce the carbon footprint and use materials for sustainability

Panelists - Dr. K. Powers - founder of SVS2022, Tara De La Garza, Rish Saito, Yoko Tahara

Rish Saito – Welcome to Wonderland – 6:00 PM at Art Ventures Gallery

UNAFF Screening of "Hot Water" - 7:00 PM at Art Ventures Gallery

September 25 (Sunday): Open to the public from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, with a live auction at noon.

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