

Art-to-Art Palette

A Midwest regional art and educational electronic and print journal

On our national Cover ...



"Crush"

He is a 'natural' maker of art

Mark Yale Harris works, lives and breathes in the materials of marble, stone, steel and bronze.

"I enjoy the challenge of working with permanent and natural materials. Unlike other materials or mediums where one can add or delete, with natural material, one can only delete."



"Whirlwind in the Thorn Trees"

Born in Buffalo, New York, he currently resides in Carbondale, Colorado, though he had resided as well in Austin, Texas and Sante Fe, New Mexico. His extensive education started with Ohio State University where he received his BBS, continued with the Marble Institute of Colorado and participated in several workshops including Building on Ideas: Looking for Source with Terry Allen and Jo Harvey of Snowmass Village, Colorado. However, it was under the tutelages of sculptor **Bill Prokopiou** (Aleut, 1944-1999), and sculptor **Doug Hyde** (Nez Perce), in the spirit of Native American artist, **Allan Houser** (Chiricahua Apache, 1915-1994) that Harris' own spirit took off. Fondly Harris recalls that the price for this experience was *"A bottle of vodka, and a steak dinner."*

His spirit did indeed take off accomplishing two monumental pieces known as *"Recoil"* in 2003 and *"Crush"* in 2006. Recoil stands at an impressive 46x33x42, with two of its bronzes located at the Polk Museum of Art in Lakeland, Florida and the City of Roanoke Historic District in Roanoke, Virginia. Carved in Utah Orange Alabaster, *"Crush"* was later sculpted to the monumental size of 61x20x80 and resides at Herman Memorial Hospital in Houston, Texas.

His recent pieces he enjoys combining the mediums of stone and steel. *"I really wanted to venture out, creating work that was new and different."* Pieces, such as, *"Surface"* and *"Whirlwind in the Thorn Trees"* solidify this merging of materials.

Sitting in his Colorado home during a snowstorm, he mentions that his studio is currently holding a large figurative piece, two little bears, and a horse in progress and he is constantly casting existing work. Nevertheless, the outdoors is where rejuvenation of mind, spirit, and inspiration takes hold. Whether bicycling on a trip in Italy or *"becoming a fish"* in his kayak and enjoying the great rivers of Colorado, for Harris, nature inspires, and as he traverses the outdoors he *"looks for the answers to life that can show through his art."*

For more on Mark Yale Harris and all of his works, visit www.markyaleharris.com.