

Gerard Basil

Gerard Basil Stripling draws on all aspects of life creating unique and meaningful contemporary fine art bronze sculptures. Where many artists transplant to work and live in Southern California, Basil Stripling grew up in the heart of Los Angeles. At an early age, he became aware that his passion was to be an artist, and spent many hours drawing as his recreation.

In the mid 1980's, this passion took him to the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising, where he earned an AA degree in Fashion Design. Upon graduation, he began work in the design industry and met famed costume designer Bill Whitten. Basil Stripling realized that Whitten, who designed costumes for stars Michael Jackson, Kenny Rogers, Neil Diamond, Lionel Richie and other music legends, could give him an abundance of creative experience, thus they began working together.

In this ten year journey through the 1990's, Basil Stripling traveled all over the world honing his skills with construction & delivery of costumes, set designs, building props & creating functional art. During his travels, he visited every museum, gallery and artist studio possible. He would study for a few days at a time with several different artists, learning their techniques and approach to fine art. And with these experiences, Basil Stripling realized his passion to create art was only partly satisfied. He began his own self-taught approach to creating fine art sculptures in different mediums such as ceramic, wood, steel and bronze.

Eight years ago, Basil Stripling made the transition to work full time creating abstract fine art sculptures. They range in size and scope, as he is inspired by real life experiences. He also moved to Laguna Beach in 2000. Basil Stripling took his knowledge of art and design and began working with architect Andrew Miller in 2003 to create a modern addition to his home that resembles a contemporary piece of art.

In the last few years Basil Stripling has begun to focus on sculpting in bronze, where he has found the truest form of art that flows from his heart, head and soul. His sculptures have also grown larger in size, awarding him four Public Art pieces throughout Southern California, along with his growing base of private collectors and corporations. Basil Stripling was selected as an emerging artist to watch in 2008 by American Style Magazine. His studio and home remain in Laguna Beach, California.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Art is a visual narration and mode of expression of shape, color and form, bestowing the viewer with a dialogue different from that found in words. It is a physical materialization of the thoughts, feelings and dreams that we have every day.

SELECT EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 Art Cube Gallery, 'Reclaimed Existence, My Life as a Chair'
White Box Contemporary, 'Group Show'
- 2011 Joanne Artman Gallery, solo show 'Preservation' January
- 2010 Art Cube Gallery, group show, 'All Blue'
Joanne Artman Gallery, group show 'Surrender' June – July
- 2009 Brett Wesley Gallery, group show, 'Power of Seduction' September
Brett Wesley Gallery, group show 'Symbolic Gesture' October
- 2008 Festival of the Arts, Juried Art Show, Laguna Beach, CA
Laguna Art Museum, "Palette to Palate 2008" 3rd Annual Art & Dining
Experience
Affaire in the Gardens, Juried Art Show, Greystone Park in Beverly Hills, CA
- 2007 Affaire in the Gardens, Juried Art Show, Greystone Park in Beverly Hills, CA
Festival of the Arts, Juried Art Show, Laguna Beach, CA
Diane DeBilzan Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

COMMUNITY DONATIONS AND SERVICE

- 2008 Laguna College of Art & Design Collectors Choice Awards
Laguna College Art & Design Board of Trustees
- 2007 – 2001 Artist Benevolence Fund
- 2007 Mind Research Institute Orange & LA Counties
- 2005 School Power Laguna Beach

EDUCATION

- 1986 Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising, AA degree in Fashion Design
- 1987 – 1997 Bill Whitten, Costume Designer
Apprenticeship with famed designer to clients Michael Jackson, Kenny
Rogers, Neil Diamond & Lionel Richie. Assisted with construction & delivery of
costumes, maintaining props, set design & building of functional art, while
traveling on world tours.

PUBLIC ART & COMMISSIONS

- Eternal Legacy, City of Laguna Beach AIPP, September (collaboration with glass
artist Michele Taylor)
- 2014 Beachwalk, UDR, city of Huntington Beach public art program Installation
Kindred, Creative Art Services for Kaiser Permanente, Cerritos, Ca
- 2013 Resolute+Spirit, Creative Art Services, Western Realco for the city of Brea, Ca
- 2012 Wall Pods, Creative Art Services for Kaiser Permanente, Anaheim, CA
Core and Convergence, Creative Art Services for City Ventures Brea, CA
- 2011 Pods, Creative Art Services for Kaiser Permanente Anaheim, CA
- 2009 Moving Forward, City of Laguna Beach AIPP, Laguna Beach,
CA (collaboration with glass artist Michele Taylor)

- 2007- 2009 "Toward the Within", temporary sculpture exhibition site commission by the City of Laguna Beach – Heisler Park, Laguna Beach, CA,
2005 "Alice" commissioned by the City of Laguna Beach – Alice Court affordable housing development by Related Properties, Laguna Beach, CA
2004 "Memento", commissioned by the City of Laguna Beach – Lang Park, Laguna Beach, CA
2003 "Repose", commissioned by the City of Laguna Beach – Montage Resort & Spa at Treasure Island Park, Laguna Beach, CA

Kim Residence, Newport Beach, CA
Stoecher Residence, Orange, CA
Norman Residence, Sherman Oaks, CA
MacKinnon Residence, Los Angeles, CA
Merit/Andrew, Irvine, CA

AWARDS

- 2006 The Architectural Foundation of Orange County; Art in Public Places Award for Special Recognition of "Repose"
2004 "Laguna Beach Art in Public Places" in Laguna Beach, CA; Recognition for "Memento"
2003 "Affaire in the Gardens" in Beverly Hills, CA; First Place Sculpture Award

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Orange County Business Journal, Arts Section, March 2008
Coastline Pilot Newspaper, Temporary Sculpture Exhibition, May 2008
Laguna Beach Magazine, House Imitates Art, Summer 2007
Laguna Lifestyles Magazine, Biography, 2004 Art & Deal Summer, India '00
The Tarantella, 1997 Text by Patricia A. Simpson, P.S. 122