CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE

STUDY OF FORMS

An abstract submitted in partial satisfaction of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in ART by Reza Bassiri

January, 1975
The abstract of Reza Bassiri is approved:

California State University, Northridge

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DEDICATION

Dedicated to those artists who consider themselves professional art students, and constantly try for self improvement.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to express my appreciation to my professors, Robert Bassler and David Elder, who have encouraged me to be a better art student, and helped me to find my way to the western world of sculpture.
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ABSTRACT

STUDY OF FORMS

by

Reza Bassiri

Master of Arts in Art

December, 1974

CHAPTER I

Statement of Purpose

The concept of my work is to create a form that is not a reproduction, but is the creation of nature. The original form has to insist its existence by itself, regardless of resemblance and relation to other items.

The power of the idea has to penetrate out of the form. The muscle of the sculpture should push outward from its skin. The artist's success is to give life to the material that he uses, and exhibit the vitality of his idea through the form. The sculpture is the materialized idea of the artist. His work is well done only if his work is completely communicable, and a manifestation of his thought.

The ideal form of sculpture is like a story that can be stronger with fewer well-chosen words and a greater idea--the one with the simplest form and greater meaning. My sculpture is a study of form. It is not abstract, but a simple statement of an idea.
CHAPTER 2
DEVELOPMENT

When I first started to work with a piece of alabaster, I found it to be hard, unbreakable and strong. But I kept working on it until it was finished. However, later on I reworked this piece, but at the time it was pleasing to my eye. Later on I kept working in alabaster, marble and onyx, trying to experience their characteristics and how to work with them and manage them in an easy way. In the beginning, I used a small clay model to help me in comparisons, but soon I did not need the model and could see the form more defined in a piece of stone.

In my sculpture I first worked with a mallet and chisel until I came to the general, but rough textured stage. Then I used a grinder to smooth it down and to connect the areas and unify the whole shape. The next stage is sanding from rough to soft, and then the final polishing. This is the usual process in most kinds of stone that I have worked with.

In the beginning I finished most of my sculpture in completely round, soft upright figures, but as I went ahead, I became more involved in shape, space, light and proportion, as can be seen in my later pieces. I have not named my work because I didn’t think about particular items when I was working on them, so I just numbered them as I went along.
CHAPTER 3
CONCLUSION

All my sculptures are one piece in different stages. As my thought grows in sculpture form, it reflects in my work directly. There are lots of improvements in my work science. I started to work in stone. What I felt about my ability to work with and experience with stone was that I looked at stone as a softer material that I would be able to change and cast more ideas into.

There is more flexibility and life in my later work compared with my earlier work. At the present time I feel that I am able to handle the technical aspect of working with stone, and now is the time to put more ideas and concepts into it.
Figure 1

Sandstone

Height: 12 inches
Figure 2
Alabaster
Height: 16 inches
Figure 3

Alabaster

Height: 23 inches
Figure 4

Grey Alabaster

Height: 22 inches
Figure 5
Alabaster
Height: 20 inches
Figure 6
Alabaster
Height: 21 inches
Figure 7
Alabaster
Height: 13 inches
Figure 8
Gold Alabaster
Height: 13 inches
Figure 9
Gold Alabaster
Height: 26 inches
Figure 10
Alabaster
Height: 14 inches
Figure 11
Onyx
Height: 15 inches
Figure 12

Onyx

Height: 16 inches
Figure 13
Brown marble
Height: 19 inches
Figure 14

Green marble

Height: 12 inches
Figure 15
Casting marble
Height: 15 inches