



MEMORIAL ART GALLERY COMMISSIONS MONUMENTAL SCULPTURE BY ALBERT PALEY FOR CENTENNIAL SCULPTURE PARK

ROCHESTER, NY, May 9, 2012 — Rochester sculptor Albert Paley has earned an international reputation for his ability to manipulate cold, hard metal into organic, seemingly impossible forms. Over a career spanning more than three decades, he has completed more than 60 monumental commissions for sites from Washington DC to Houston to Los Angeles.



So it's not surprising that the Memorial Art Gallery has commissioned a 25-foot stainless steel sculpture by Paley as one of the anchor installations of its planned Centennial Sculpture Park. The new work, titled *Soliloquy*, will be sited at MAG's Goodman Street entrance and installed next year as the Gallery counts down to its 100th anniversary.

Soliloquy is the gift of the Cameros Family and Ann Mowris Mulligan, with additional support from Bank of America Charitable Foundation, FULL MEASURE, the Herdle-Moore Fund, the Rubens Family Foundation, and the Clara and Edwin Strassenburgh Fund.

Paley joins three other celebrated artists commissioned to create site-specific works for the park—Wendell Castle, Jackie Ferrara and Tom Otterness. “The Paley commission completes our vision of four new works by internationally acclaimed artists for the Centennial Sculpture Park,” says director Grant Holcomb. “Best of all, two of the four are Rochester’s.”

In addition to the four new works, Centennial Sculpture Park will showcase sculptures from the MAG collection by such prominent artists as Deborah Butterfield, George Rickey and Tony Smith.

About the artist

A graduate of Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia, where he received his BFA and MFA, Albert Paley began his career as a goldsmith, the maker of jewelry that might be described as futuristically Art Nouveau. A decade later, working in forged and fabricated steel, he came to national prominence with an exquisite set of portal gates for the Renwick Gallery, part of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC.

As the scale of his work grew, so did his reputation as an artist. He has earned the description of “iconoclastic traditionalist” for his ability to successfully integrate naturalism and abstraction in a personal and highly recognizable aesthetic. “Albert Paley’s work is assertively virile; huge bars of steel, twisted, hammered and welded as though in a giant’s smithy,” writes art historian James Trilling. “That it is also personal and graceful is the measure of his brilliance.”

Today, Paley’s work can be found in the permanent collections of such museums as the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York; the Museum of Fine Arts Boston; the Museum of Fine Arts Houston; the Victoria and Albert Museum in London; and the Memorial Art Gallery.



Commissioned by both public institutions and private corporations, he has completed more than 60 site-specific works. In addition to the Renwick gates, notable examples include entrance gates for the the New York State Senate Chamber in Albany and the Naples (FL) Museum of Art; a sculpture and plaza designed for Adobe Systems in San Jose, CA; and a plaza sculpture for AT&T in Atlanta, GA.

Most recently, he has completed a sculptural relief for Wellington Place, Toronto; a pair of entrance sculptures for the Columbia (MO) Public Library; *Threshold*, an entryway sculpture for the headquarters of Klein Steel in Rochester; and two works explored in the current exhibition—the 120-foot long entryway sculpture for the St. Louis Zoo and RIT's *The Sentinel*.

The recipient of honorary doctorates from the University of Rochester, SUNY Brockport and St. Lawrence University, Paley holds an endowed chair at the Rochester Institute of Technology. In 1995 he became the first metal sculptor to receive the coveted Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Institute for Architects, the AIA's highest award to a non-architect.

In 2010, the artist was the subject of *Albert Paley in the 21st Century*, a major retrospective organized by the Memorial Art Gallery.

More recently, Paley was invited to create 13 monumental sculptures for an outdoor sculpture exhibition opening in June 2013 along Park Avenue in New York City.

About Centennial Sculpture Park

Centennial Sculpture Park, a community space on the Memorial Art Gallery grounds, is scheduled to open in time for the Gallery's 100th anniversary celebration in October 2013. The strategic location of the park, along with the removal of portions of decades-old wrought-iron fencing, is expected to make the Gallery a more vital part of the Neighborhood of the Arts, open up the grounds for the public to enjoy, and attract tourism.

As part of park construction, the Gallery's Goodman Street driveway is being relocated north of its old location to provide better traffic flow and a more inviting approach. The Paley sculpture will serve as a landmark at the new entrance, identifying it as the primary vehicular entrance to the museum.

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