

JAMES N. RACCHI
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PUBLIC COLLECTION

TIN SHUI WAI PARK, New Territories, Hong Kong ,China
CROCODILE LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Key Largo, FL
FORT ZACHARY TAYLOR HISTORIC STATE PARK, Key West, FL
GULF COAST MUSEUM, Largo, FL
KEY WEST AIRPORT, Monroe County Arts Council, Key West, FL
THE GARDENS HOTEL, Key West, FL
TOWN HALL CIVIC CENTER OF SEDLISTE, Czech Republic

FOUNDER SCULPTURE KEY WEST 1995

James started Sculpture Key West an outdoor sculpture exhibition held annually at Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park in Key West, Fl. This event has grown in to an international art event.

AWARDS RECEIVED

2006 CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION, Community Foundation of the Florida Keys
2003 CERTIFICATE OF DISTINCTION, Key West Art in Public Places Board
2002 ANNE MCKEE ARTIST FUND, Grant
1995 ANNE MCKEE ARTIST FUND, Grant
1987 STUDIO ART CENTER INTERNATIONAL, SCHOLARSHIP, Florence, Italy

INTERNATIONAL SCULPTURE SYMPOSIUMS

2008 TIN SHUI WAI INTERNATIONAL SCULPTURE SYMPOSIUM, Hong Kong, China
2005 INTERNATIONAL SCULPTURE SYMPOSIUM, Sedliste Czech Republic

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2008 MENTOR FOR KEY WEST HIGH SCHOOL ART CLASS PROJECT FOR
SCULPTURE KEY WEST 2008
1998 METAL SCULPTURE TECHNIQUE, Florida Keys Community College, Key West, FL
1993 METAL SCULPTURE TECHNIQUE, Florida Keys Community College, Key West, FL

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

ON-GOING SINCE 1995 SCULPTURE KEY WEST, Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State
Park, Key West, FL
2006 SUMMER EXHIBITION, Key West Art and Historical Society at the Custom House,
Key West, FL
2006 THE LOCALS SHOW, Charest-Weinberg Gallery, Key West, FL
2005 ART STUDIO LOCK-IN, Lemonade Stand, Key West, FL
2000 UNDER THE SUN, Key West Art and Historical Society at the Custom House, Key
West, FL

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS CONTINUED

- 1997 7th ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP JURIED EXHIBITION, Bakehouse Art Complex, Miami, FL
- 1997 46th ANNUAL ALL FLORIDA JURIED EXHIBITION, Boca Raton Museum of Art, Boca Raton, FL
- 1996 IN MOTION, Betcher Gallery, Miami, FL
- 1995 SUPERSTITION, Tennessee Williams Find Arts Center, Key West, FL
- 1995 RACCHI, VASEK, Passions Gallery, Key West, FL
- 1994 HEAVY METAL, Art Collectors Gallery, Coral Gables, FL
- 1994 THE ACTS OF HOPE, Jackie Gleason Theater of Performing Arts, Miami Beach, FL
- 1994 THE BAKEHOUSE ART COMPLEX SELECTED ARTIST, Center for the Arts, Vero Beach, FL
- 1994 RACCHI, VASEK, P.S. Lane Gallery, Key West, FL
- 1993 JIM RACCHI, Rik o'Che, Miami Beach, FL
- 1988 A CAPITOL IDEA: THE ENDURANCE OF NEOCLASSICISM, Tregoning Fine Art, Inc., Cleveland, OH
- 1985 THE MAY SHOW, Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH
- 1985 ARTMUSEMENT CAFÉ for CLEVELAND ART FOCUS
- 1983 RAMIFICATIONS OF INSTANT GRATIFICATION, Art Gallery, Cleveland State University

ARTIST STATEMENT

It's the "form" that I am after. It's the "weight" and "mass" and patterns of dark and light. But central to my work is a "balance" that underlies the surface tension

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- KEY WESTER, Key West, FL. January 2005
- KEY WESTER, Key West, FL. January 2004
- SOLARIS HILL, Key West, FL. November 21, 2003
- SOLARIS HILL, Key West, FL. December 13, 2002
- CELEBRATE, Key West, FL. February 25, 2000
- SOLARIS HILL, Key West, FL. February 18, 2000
- PARADISE THIS WEEK, Key West, FL. February 11 1999
- CELEBRATE, Key West, FL. December 18, 1998
- SOLARIS HILL, Key West, FL. March 19, 1998
- MIAMI HERALD, Miami FL. February 15 1998
- CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER, Cleveland, OH. September 20 1995
- SOLARIS HILL, Key West, FL. March 30, 1995
- EL NUEVO HERALD, Miami, FL. October 15 1994
- CLEVELAND GAZETTE, Cleveland, OH. February 1994
- ISLAND LIFE, Key West, FL. January 20, 1994

JIM RACCHI BIOGRAPHY

A balance between direct figuration and abstraction, Jim's goal is to use steel as if it were clay. He creates an impression of animals and people by "drawing in space". The physical process of manipulating hot and cold steel results in energetic sculptures. Curvilinear lines define the form and create a rhythm or movement to each piece.

As a sculpture major at the Cleveland Institute of Art in 1987, Jim received a scholarship to study at STUDIO ART CENTER INTERNATIONAL in Florence, Italy. There he was trained in traditional techniques of stone carving which was a logical progression from the woodcarving done previously in Cleveland Ohio. Jim moved to Key West, Florida in 1990, where he learned techniques of welding steel. Collecting scrap metal from dumps and old construction sites proved an inexpensive and inspirational source of material. Jim's ability to execute a likeness of his subjects was realized under the instruction of Nathaniel Kaz at a Florida Keys Community College workshop in 1992.

In 1993, Jim taught "metal sculpture" at Florida Keys Community College. His craft was further developed by his introduction to "traditional blacksmithing" in 1995 when he began work as a Park Ranger at Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park in Key West, Florida. Jim is the creator of "SCULPTURE KEY WEST" an outdoor sculpture exhibit at Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park which features his own large scale pieces as well as the work of several other artists. The successful exhibition in 1995 has become an annual event, that runs for six weeks, providing outdoor and "site specific" works to an enthusiastic Key West audience.

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

HAL BROMM, New York, NY
PAUL AND YVETTE SPENCER, Miami Beach, FL
ROBERT VENABLE, London, UK
ELAINE AND HY WIETZEN, New York, NY
ALVARO MARTINEZ-FONTS, New York, NY
DEBORAH M. LEAGUE, Washington, DC
NELSON SPIESS, Armonk, NY
SALLY BANCROFT, London UK
MARION STEVENS, Key West, FL
JOHN AARON M.D., Louisville, KY
JODY CARLSON, Key West, FL
DONNA FELDMAN, Key West, FL
RICHARD BROWNER, Key West, FL
PAUL ANTHONY, Cleveland, OH
BRIAN JONES, Miami, FL
CHRISTOPHER J. WISHMIRE, Indianapolis, IN
NICK VELLONEY, Shaker Heights, Ohio
ALMA BOND PHD., Key West, FL
GREGORY COSTER, New York, NY
LARRY SHANE, S. Euclid, OH
LIDA TURETSKY, Moreland Hills, OH
JOHN BAKER, Key West, FL
ANN FONVILLE, Lenor, N.C.
JAMES BALLINGER, KY
ROBERT MARRERO, Key West, FL
BUFF and CAROLYN WILEY, Key West, FL
JOHN and MARIBELLE MASCAL, Sugarloaf, FL
JEFF ROBINS and PAUL OWENS, Stroudsburg, PA
MAUHER KLAPPER and MICHIEL ROMBURG, Key West, FL

JIM RACCHI' METAL SCULPTURES

His work has a broad scope and his ability at executing a variety of styles is well developed. Some of his pieces are more traditional, like his nudes which hint to his traditional education of stone carving in Florence, Italy. But, in other works he gets playful, creating snarling dogs, spinning houses caught up in tornados and ABSTRACT expressions that don't rely on anything traditional, but work on their own.

Mr. Racchi creates with the earth's hot molten core of glowing metal, yet each piece of sculpture he's created looks as light and full as the herons, dogs and humans they form. He says that he "draws with steel, forming the figure directly in space." He uses a line of steel as if he were sketching a figure with a pencil, adding and adding new lines, shaping and reshaping them until the fullness and contour of the figure is fleshed out and wonderfully familiar.

By J. Gregory Barton, Solaris Hill, March 1995

EDUCATION

1991 FLORIDA KEYS COMMUNITY COLLEGE, Metal Sculpture, Key West, FL
1987 - 1988 DIRECTED INDEPENDENT STUDY, Marble Carving, Pietra Santa, Italy
1987 - 1988 STUDIO ART CENTER INTERNATIONAL, Florence, Italy
1986 - 1987 CLEVELAND INSTITUTE OF ART, Sculpture Cleveland, Ohio
1981 - 1982 URSALINE COLLEGE, Art Therapy, Cleveland, OH
1974 - 1977 COOPER SCHOOL OF ART, Cleveland, OH