

William Brayton: Artist Statement

I find each new sculpture through an improvisational process. Chance, gravity, and implied motion each contribute to the outcome. Months are spent building a critical mass of parts. When assembly begins, chance opportunities collide with the memory of previous choices. As the sculpture emerges, gravity is acknowledged and pushed against. Parts are added, cut out, repositioned and abandoned. Disrupted patterns and sequences can imply motion and change. Riveting, bolting, and welding form distinct connections, slowing down or speeding up the eye. Line-weight, overlapping, layering, scale and translucency come out of parallel explorations in drawing. Plant architecture, local wind patterns, and nautical history have influenced my use of branching, invasive systems, implied motion, and the interaction of different materials. I'm using aluminum, bronze, concrete, acrylic and wood primarily for their beauty, structural properties and durability outdoors. Balancing these attributes against the environmental consequences posed by these materials is an unresolved conversation. When many lines, curves, disks, and spheres interact, a specific emotional tone sometimes surfaces. At this point I step back, and the sculpture becomes itself.

William Brayton: Bio

William Brayton graduated from the University of New Hampshire, cum laude in studio art, and received an MFA from Claremont Graduate University in Los Angeles. Brayton has exhibited his work in a broad range of venues including: The Barrows Rotunda, Dartmouth College; The Mount, Lenox, MA; The Art Lot, Brooklyn, NY; The Chesterwood Museum, Stockbridge, MA; Soil Gallery, Seattle WA; and the Boston Sculptors Gallery, Boston MA. His work has appeared in numerous publications including Sculpture Magazine, Art New England, The Seattle Times, and The Boston Globe. Brayton is an emeritus Professor of Art at Hampshire College in Amherst Massachusetts where he established the Sculpture Program in 1988. He is the recipient of a Pollock Krasner Grant, a Mellon Foundation grant, a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Grant, and other grants in support of his work in the studio and within academia. Brayton has been a visiting artist at many institutions including Dartmouth College, Smith College, Penn State University, Claremont Graduate University, Amherst College, Skidmore College, and The Brattleboro Museum. He lives and works with Erica Wurtz and their son Gavin in Conway Massachusetts.