

VICTOR GOLDSMITH: ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHY

I was born in NYC in 1945 and moved to Potsdam, New York shortly before my fifth birthday. When I was young, I used to go directly from my school to my father's studio/classroom at what was then Potsdam State Teachers College in upstate Potsdam, New York. There, I was set up with paper, paints, pencils and clay while my father, Ben Goldsmith, taught and critiqued his undergraduate students in the process and meaning of art. I of course, was oblivious, focused only on the images and shapes I was creating. Like most young children, my art was filled with content and meaning.

Our house was another classroom, though I didn't realize it. My father's paintings, sculpture and jewelry were a constant presence, as well as the tables, chairs, glassware and other household articles that reflected my parents' modernist taste. Pieces by Charles Eames and Bertola as well as cabinets and tables designed and made by my father were part of my world. The other, equally important object in the house was my father's baby grand piano which he played beautifully. Brahms, De Falla, Beethoven all shared our house with us.

And so, art and music went hand in hand through my youth, even while I was pursuing other activities. I became interested in architecture and eventually received my degree in 1969. At Cornell, I made the acquaintance of three fine sculpture professors on the faculty of the College of Art and Architecture; Victor Colby, Jason Sealy and Jack Squire, and took a sculpture elective from Jack Squire during my senior year.

I briefly worked for a local architect in Ithaca, before moving back to the Catskills where I had spent many of my summers working as a waiter. For the next few years, I worked as a waiter and began seriously working on sculpture using the laminating techniques I learned from Jack Squier,

In 1977 I was accepted as a graduate teaching assistant at The Rhode Island School of Design in Providence, Rhode Island and spent the next two years learning my craft and trying other means of expression utilizing the wonderful facilities at RISD, receiving my Masters of Fine Art in 1979. Welding, construction, bronze casting were all part of my curriculum, but wood still occupied the space in the center of my creativity.

Economic necessity led me back to architecture, working in Providence until I married my wife Ellen in January of 1981 and moved to Brooklyn, New York. Over the course of the next 20 years, I worked for two firms before taking over an architectural consulting firm, moving to Hastings-on-Hudson in 1984 and eventually retiring at the end of 2001.

Following my retirement, I returned to my sculpture, but with a new focus – direct carving using logs I had collected over the intervening 20 years. My first effort was successful and this improvisational approach to sculpture has continued ever since. Ellen and I moved to Cushing, Maine in 2006, where I designed and built our house and a studio for myself and here I continue with my new old career.

Victor I. Goldsmith

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Born

New York, NY, October 6, 1945

Education

Cornell University, Bachelor of Architecture, 1969
Rhode Island School of Design, Masters of Fine Arts, 1979

Professional Career

Various architectural firms, 1971-1986
RISD, Graduate Assistant in Sculpture, 1977-1979
President - E/G Construction Services Ltd., New York City, 1986-2004

Exhibitions

Binghamton, NY Regional Art Exhibition 1974 (Sculpture)
Great Neck, NY Juried Art Exhibition 1975 (Sculpture)
Kenshaw Gallery, Woodstock, NY 1975 (Sculpture)
Woods-Gerry Gallery, Providence, RI 1979 (Sculpture)
Rockefeller State Park Preserve Gallery, Pleasantville, NY 2003 (Photography)
HHML Gallery, Pound Ridge, NY 2003 (Photography)
Thomaston Café, Thomaston, Maine 2004 (Photography)
Rockefeller State Park Preserve Gallery, Pleasantville, NY 2004 (Sculpture & Photography)
CMCC, Rockport, Maine – “The Art of Wood” 2005 (Sculpture)
Harbor Square Gallery, Rockland, Maine 2008 & 2010 (Sculpture)
Landing Gallery, Rockland, Maine 2009 & 2010 (Sculpture)
Harbor Square Gallery, Rockland, Maine 2009-2010 (Sculpture)
Arts in the Barn, Cushing, Maine 2008 (Sculpture, drawings & photography)
Asymmetric Arts, Rockland, Maine 2012 (Sculpture)
Arts in the Barn, Cushing, Maine 2013 (Sculpture)
Maine Jewish Museum, Portland, Maine 2015 (Sculpture)
Jonathan Frost Gallery, Rockland, Maine 2017/2018 (Sculpture, drawings)
Jonathan Frost Gallery, Rockland, Maine, 2019/2020 (Sculpture, drawings)
Maine Jewish Museum, Portland, Maine, 2020 (Drawings)

Collections

Mr. Goldsmith's sculpture, drawings and photographs are included in private collections in Italy, California, Arizona, Florida, New York, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Maryland, Texas, Oregon and Maine