

# BEN WOITENA

## Artist Statement

*Art is an imitation of the nature of things, not of their appearances.*

— Ananda K. Coomaraswamy

The spontaneous process utilized in my sculpture is the same intuitive process utilized in my drawings. Because they are not preconceived, cross-pollination can occur when mixed media in drawings translates into surface textures of sculptures, and when sculptural materials and/or forms become components of the drawings.

Carving is an uncompromising, subtractive process, within which removal of material involves a commitment to that form. Commitment to form in additive processes is more easily manipulated. In combining these two processes my sculptures and drawings become a spontaneous, intuitive manipulation of materials in much the same manner jazz musicians employ free musical associations before returning to a recognizable melody. Jack Kerouac believed that the unedited first drafts were the best of his writings, and Jackson Pollock relied upon intuitive gesture to remain in contact with his drip technique in painting. Gestural processes allow expansive expression to intuit forms. Similarly, my work exemplifies my belief, and that first articulated by abstractionists, that the creative process is a transformational experience whereby thoughts become tangible via the manipulation of materials. Each intuitive gesture is not dated in time, but universally archetypal in content.

— Ben Woitena