



ARISTIDES DEMETRIOS (b. 1932)

Reaching for the Stars

bronze

15 5/8 x 5 1/4 x 5 1/4 in.

2018

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Aristides (Aris) Burton Demetrios, was born in Lincoln, Massachusetts, to George Demetrios, an award winning classical sculptor who studied with Bourdelle, who was a student of Rodin, and Virginia Lee Burton Demetrios (Jinnee), who won the Caldecott prize for authoring and illustrating beloved children's books, including Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel, The Little House, Choo Choo, etc. He grew up in Gloucester, Massachusetts, in the famed art colony of Cape Ann, where his family counted among their close friends, renowned sculptors Paulanship, and Walker Hancock, and the series of painters who came yearly to summer in Gloucester and Rockport.

After graduating with honors from Gloucester High School, Aris enrolled at Harvard College on an NROTC scholarship. He graduated with honors, before embarking on a three year tour as an officer in the US Navy. He subsequently studied drawing at the George Demetrios School of Art, and then architecture at UC Berkeley.

Aris moved to California to facilitate his desire to specialize in contemporary sculpture, focusing on abstract pieces in bronze and steel. After being the fortunate recipient of mentoring by Charles Eames, he earned early recognition when he won the national competition to design and fabricate the iconic White Memorial Fountain, known as "Mem Claw" on the Stanford University campus, and the competition to design and fabricate a sculpture for David and Lucille Packard for the Monterey Bay Aquarium, known as "Forms Sung In A Kelp Forest". He went on to win numerous national competitions for large scale public art, which art is displayed today from New York to California. He designed and fabricated the bronze Deiniger Fountain on the USC campus, the iconic Rod and Cathy Park 40' steel sculpture at the new UC Merced campus, a steel Dance of Life sculpture on the UCSF campus, another on the USF campus, and most recently, he won the Santa Barbara Beautiful Award for his steel sculpture at the new Ridley Tree Cancer Center. He previously was awarded the same distinction for the Luria-Towbe bronze fountain on the Santa Barbara City College campus.

In addition to his many large-scale public sculptures, Aris has designed and fabricated hundreds of bronze and steel garden sculptures for private collectors, and smaller pieces to grace the homes of private residents. His many clients include Carol Burnett and Brian Miller, Kirk and Anne Douglas, Don and Doris Fisher, Merv and Ros Morris, Bob and Alex Nourse, Eli and Lee Luria, Michael Towbes, Bob and Chris Emmons, Gordon and Belita Auchincloss, and countless others, who have enjoyed the lyrical, joyous sculptures for which Demetrios has become famous.

Several videos capture the magical quality of Demetrios' work, the most recent being

the “Thrill of Sculpting”, done by renowned videographer Richard Hutton and Mark Romanov.

The Heather James Gallery is proud to represent the work of Aris Demetrios. Private Tours of Aris’ atelier are available, and can be scheduled through the Heather James Gallery.

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