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The Sculpture Center Presents Monumental Spirit: A Celebration of David E. Davis

David E. Davis, recently-deceased sculptor of international renown, arts patron and founder of The Sculpture Center and Artists Archives of the Western Reserve will be honored and remembered June 20, 2003 – July 27, 2003 by the largest solo sculpture exhibit ever in Northeast Ohio. The free region-wide comprehensive exhibition of his works entitled: Monumental Spirit: A Celebration of David E. Davis will feature 87 works by the artist in 28 locations, free sculpture demonstrations, free lectures, free family activities and more.

The exhibit and programming will examine the stylistic development, working process, and artistic convictions of this provocative Cleveland artist. Fifty-four works will be featured in the five, curated exhibits at The Sculpture Center, Artists Archives of the Western Reserve, The Davis Studio, the artist's fabricating studio, and Cleveland State University. Twelve additional works will be installed for the exhibit in the rotunda of City Hall, Cleveland Theatre District at Playhouse Square, The Cleveland Museum of Art, Akron Art Museum, and Cleveland Institute of Art. Twenty-one local permanent installations by the artist will also be highlighted. Locations include the Beachwood Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public, The Free Clinic, Case Western Reserve University, The Progressive Corporation, The Beck Center for the Cultural Arts and more.

An exhaustive schedule of events, lectures and demonstrations complement the exhibit. The Main Event is a three-part workshop wherein each participant will be given a small ball of wax to model a sculpture following a thorough introduction to the casting process. Later that week, participants can watch as their sculpture is cast in bronze. The third session will teach the new artists how to finish the work and apply a patina. The Main Event costs \$30 per person. All other demonstrations and classes are free. Additional demonstrations are scheduled in blacksmithing, glass blowing, stone carving, and woodcarving. A free Family Event will allow children to touch and explore the materials and process of sculpture. Arts educators will hold sketch classes in the galleries for children age 5 – 14 including age-appropriate lessons in geometric forms and their interpretation.

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The All Night Sculpture Festival serves a dual constituency of artists and the public. Area sculptors are invited to bring their tools and materials to The Sculpture Center and the public is invited to come and watch the chisels fly. This free event will mark the close of Monumental Spirit.

In a three-part lecture series entitled *Quality of Intellect*, noted art historian Professor Ed Olszewski will explore the artist's intellection by tracing the evolution of the sculptor's idea. In the first lecture, Olszewski will trace the creative process from library to sketch to maquette. The second lecture is an overview of the artist's series and his choice of materials and influences. The third evening will feature a panel discussion that attempts to place the work in a broader context. Panelists David Deming, Carolyn Jirousek, and philosopher Ken Palko will explore the question of the artist's mind.

A Sculptors Forum will take place in the gallery at Cleveland State University to mark the opening night of the exhibit at that location on June 27. This edgy and controversial panel will ask if the difference between traditional sculpture and contemporary sculpture is deeper than the change in style and period.

In an era when many arts organizations are encouraged to pursue mutually beneficial collaborations, The Sculpture Center is proud to have many fine organizations as our partners for Monumental Spirit. To celebrate this partnership, the free opening reception will include a gallery hop. Busses will take guests to see Davis' sculpture at The Cleveland Museum of Art, The Elizabeth Ring Mather Garden, Playhouse Square, and Bonfoey Gallery. A guided bus tour will be offered later in July. The guided tour, available for a nominal reservation fee of \$3 per person, will highlight Davis' public sculpture at The Free Clinic and Case Western Reserve University, exhibits at The Cleveland Museum of Art and Cleveland Institute of Art and The Sculpture Center's conservation efforts in Public Square.

David E. Davis passed away November 13, 2002 at the age of 82. He was internationally known for his award-winning sculptures. Davis' work is in the collections of Cleveland Museum of Art, The Israel Museum in Jerusalem, Polk Museum of Art in Lakeland, Florida and Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, New Jersey, among others. His many awards include the Cleveland Art Prize, Northern Ohio Live Award of Achievement in Visual Art, and Governor's Award for the Arts, Ohio Arts Council.

A detailed schedule of events is included with this release. For photographs (prints or digital), further information, or additional background, please contact Lisa Winstel 216-229-6527.

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