

THE SCULPTURE CENTER

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Preserving Memory Exhibit Opens **at The Sculpture Center on March 21, 2003**

Preserving Memory: America's Monumental Legacy, a touring exhibit telling the stories behind America's outdoor sculpture, will be hosted by The Sculpture Center March 21 through April 18, 2003. The opening reception is Friday March 21, 5-7 pm and is free and open to the public. The exhibition is being made possible with the generous support of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Cleveland Restoration Society and was developed by Save Outdoor Sculpture!, a national project devoted to caring for America's collection of outdoor monuments.

Using about two hundred images on twenty full-color panels, *Preserving Memory* places local sculptures in a national context. The exhibition tells about the history of sculpture-making, raises questions about why and how monuments are erected, and reveals intriguing stories about statues found throughout the country. *Preserving Memory* also explains some of the most common physical threats to outdoor works and shows how some communities have taken steps to preserve their local and national treasures.

Also featured in *Preserving Memory* is The Sculpture Center's most ambitious conservation program to date, which began in 1999 – the restoration of thirteen historic

sculptures found in the Fine Arts Garden and surrounding area of Cleveland's University Circle. These city-owned works, exposed to severe conditions over the past seventy to one hundred years, will be restored, revived, and renewed by this spring for everyone to enjoy.

In conjunction with the exhibit, Robert Lodge, a professional art conservator who established the McKay Lodge Fine Arts Conservation Laboratory in Oberlin, will present a lecture entitled, *Sculpture Conservation Today*. The materials of sculpture, forms of deterioration, and the conservation work necessary to preserve sculpture will be well illustrated with exciting images highlighting the Fine Arts Garden monuments. The program will take place at The Sculpture Center on March 26, 2003 at 7:00 p.m., is free of charge, and open to the public. Please RSVP by March 19, 2003 to attend this program by contacting Katherine Ukmar, Conservation Program Coordinator at (216) 229-6527, or email tsc@apk.net.

Founded in 1989, The Sculpture Center is a nonprofit organization that has been dedicated to enhancing our community's appreciation of sculpture by fostering the careers of emerging sculptors, as well as promoting the preservation of outdoor sculpture in the Greater Cleveland area. Some of our conservation projects have included important local monuments, such as *Moses Cleaveland* and *Tom Johnson* at Public Square; and *Abraham Lincoln* at Memorial Plaza.

For more information about the conservation program or other programs offered at The Sculpture Center, please call (216) 229-6527, or visit our website at www.sculpturecenter.org.

The Sculpture Center is located in University Circle on East 123rd off of Euclid Ave. Gallery hours are Mon - Fri 10am - 4pm, Sat Noon -4pm.

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