



Sculptor

Barry Woods Johnston

Artist Biography

Barry Woods Johnston is a consummate artist who has spent a lifetime perfecting his knowledge of the human forms so they may be placed in service of rich rhythms and lucid ideas. An accomplished pianist, he translates harmony and melodic flow into the visual language of his most celebrated works. The balance of his compositions may reflect his many years of training as an architect. The tension that animates his positive and negative spaces remains wholly rational without any sacrifice of their immediacy or vigor. The remarkable beauty, physical perfection and eloquence of his figures bespeak something important within their creator's soul.

A biographical sketch cannot explain the unnamable grace that permeates Barry Johnston's best work. It can outline some formative experiences, lay the basis of his curriculum vitae, and perhaps satisfy a natural curiosity about the man behind the work. But mere biography must leave untouched the mysterious engine of heart and mind impelling some of the most provocative and sincerely felt sculpture to be presented on the contemporary scene.

Johnston began the formal study of sculpture under Jose de Creef at the Art Students League in 1963, continuing with Walter Hancock, Harry Rosen and Tony Greenwood at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts from 1964 to 1966. He did a tour of duty in Vietnam in 1967-1968. In 1969 Johnston graduated with a 5 year Degree in Architecture from Georgia Tech, then moved to Europe to study philosophy with Francis Schaeffer in Switzerland. From 1970-1972 he lived in Italy, studying figure drawing with Madame Simi, plaster casting with Enzo Cardini, and stone carving at Romanelli Studios. He has returned to Italy throughout his career, though his home and studio are in Baltimore, Maryland.

Sculptures by Johnston are featured repeatedly at exhibitions of the National Academy of Design, the National Sculpture Society, the Allied Artists of America, the National Arts Club, and the Salmagundi Club, to name only a few. His work has been the recipient of virtually every important peer award and medal, including the *Cassidy Memorial Award*, the *Leonard J. Meiselman Award* (multiple times), the *Lindsay Morris Memorial Prize*, the *Chaim Gross Foundation Award*, the National Arts Club *Best In Show* prize and their *President's Award*, the *Eliot Liskin Award* (multiple times) and many others.

Johnston sculptures can be found in prominent public places and important collections. The Vatican Museum in Rome and the Washington National Cathedral. Georgetown University, The Martin Luther King Library, and the Lutheran Church of the Reformation, all in Washington, DC, have important works by Barry Johnston in their collections, as do Vrye Universitet in Amsterdam, The National Foundation, the James Michener Museum, the United States Army Art Collection and CBN University. Johnston commissions can be found in Egypt, China, Washington, D.C., Maryland, Virginia, Illinois, and Texas.

Barry Johnston is a recognized master of the arts and a living treasure. For some thirty years, he has produced a stunning body of work distinguished by thoughtful conception, virtuosity of technique, stirring emotion, and momentous content — a growing body of work which stands alone in originality. Now in the midst of the most fecund phase of his career, his present collection marks a lifetime dedicated to the pursuit of wisdom and truth through sculpture.

— Steve Mirabella