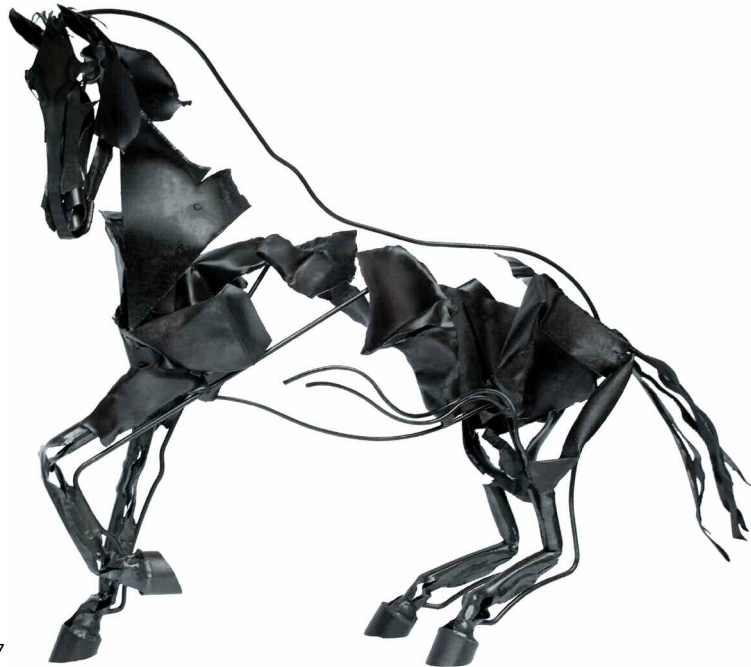


JOSEPH FICHTER

Horse Sculptures

April 5, 2009– February 21, 2010



Winter Thunder 2007

Joseph Fichter's horse sculptures are more than descriptions of living animals: they are dynamic depictions of energy in motion. In some ways they are bold, three-dimensional drawings, their hard metal tracing remarkably sleek, effortless lines.

Fichter gives strands of metal an almost calligraphic quality as they sketch out the barest outline of the animal's silhouette. He articulates musculature by adding robust, shaped metal panels, in turn creating open spaces that further define the animal and its movement.

Representational but with an abstract flavor, these are very satisfying works, at once simple and complex, subtle and robust.

Mara Williams
Curator

Artist's Statement

Prior to beginning this current series of horse sculptures, I was creating abstract forms in steel. Making horse sculptures was a natural progression, in part because I share the building that houses my Putney, Vermont, studio with several horses.

The union of horse barn and sculpture studio benefits my work. The majestic equine form and the forces of a horse in motion inspire me as I continue to explore the possibilities of steel. I have spent many hours studying my family's horses both from my studio windows and also up close in the pasture. Carrots and apples are a vital investment.

The horse is not the only inspiration behind these sculptures. The steel itself, the history of where it has

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center

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Bolt 2009

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been, and the potential of what it can be are driving forces in the poetry I endeavor to impart.

Some of my materials come to me new, clean, and straight. Some I acquire from scrap yards. By forging, cutting, shearing, bending, and welding, I manipulate the new and the used to create a harmony of forces. In creating this balance, I am attentive to both the arrangement of the material and the composition of the surrounding spaces. My working process, a marriage of a compulsion to control and a celebration of the spontaneous, results in one-of-a-kind sculptures of horses.

I thrive on the new discoveries I find in each piece of metal. This deep respect for the material and the working process are key elements that inform my work.

While I strive to be true to the spirit of these beautiful creatures, I hope the viewer sees in my sculptures more than horses. I'd like these sculptures to be seen as artworks that explore composition, movement, and space.

Joseph Fichter



Clarion Call 2005

All works are on loan
courtesy of the artist.
Dimensions are height by
width by depth, in inches.

April 5–July 26
Winter Thunder 2007
steel
82 x 114 x 34

August 7–November 8
Bolt 2009
steel
72 x 128 x 65

*November 22, 2009–
February 21, 2010*
Clarion Call 2005
steel
114 x 120 x 35



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Joseph Fichter: Horse Sculptures was produced by the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Danny Lichtenfeld, director; Mara Williams, curator. The brochure was edited and designed by Judith Bellamy Editorial Services. Copyright July 2009 by Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. Printing courtesy of C&S Wholesale Print Shop.

Major support for the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center's 2009–2010 season is provided by our members and:



Hours and Accessibility

Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Tuesday and Wednesday except by appointment.
Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.
The Museum is wheelchair accessible.
An ASL interpreter for the hearing impaired will be provided if requested two weeks in advance of tours or programs.

Admission and Parking

BMAC members free
Adults \$6
Seniors \$4
Students \$3
Children 5 and under free
Parking is available in front of the Museum.

Museum Shop

The Museum Gift Shop, free to the public during regular Museum hours, features an assortment of cards, games, books, prints, and educational and gift items, including work of many local artists.

Group Tours

Docent-led tours of the Museum for groups are available by appointment. Call the Museum for information.