Inside Front & Back Covers: Sculptures

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LEFT: SARASOTA DECO

This work is an example of a public/private commission. The work was essentially a covenant that was secured by the city so the developer could construct a large and somewhat intrusive tower in downtown Sarasota, Florida. Ordinarily the time line on a project might be as long as a year. Because of all of the entities involved, it took much longer; three and a half years. This project required the approval of the developer, the condominium association, the city public art committee, the city engineer, the City Council of Sarasota, an outside engineering firm, the Florida Department of Transportation and the Public Safety Department of Sarasota. After gaining all of these approvals we were shut down on the work site because we forgot to get a right-of-way permit to work on the sidewalk. Another trip to city hall!

COVER: MARYLAND HEADLONG

Many of my residential pieces are produced as a result of a site visit. I meet with the clients, extensively photograph the space and talk to them about how they intend to interact with the sculpture. Many times the view from in the home is one of the most important. One of the most important things in the minds of these clients was caring for the work. We discussed works that would be large enough to hold the space on their large lawn. However these clients wanted to make sure that they could maintain the work themselves using only a standard step ladder. Being older, they did not want to climb 10’ in the air to maintain the finish on their sculpture. However, their site, with a single story ranch-like home, could dialog well with a work that was long and low. So, instead of a piece that was 10’ tall, we designed a work that was 10’ long and no more than 6’ tall.
This work took forever to complete. Because of a variety of things going on in the studio, some of the parts for this work sat around for the better part of two years. At times, parts of this piece served as a table to make other sculptures! We all have grand conceptions of what can be accomplished within a given period of time. When we fail to meet these goals, some projects get pushed to the side. The advantage for me was that when I was approached to do a show with Bristol Community College in their gallery, I had a couple of works that were nearly complete that could work in their cavernous exhibit space. I am always amazed that when I revisit an idea like this, the things that inspired me to design were a large part of the inspiration to complete. For those ideals to survive the drought of activity means that they were strong ideas to me, and well worth the effort to explore.