CAROLINE RAMERSDORFER

Inner View Expanded

PERRELLA GALLERY
JOHNSTOWN • NEW YORK

September 5 through October 25 • 2008
Education (selected)
Sorbonne, Culture and French Civilization, Paris, France 1979
International University of Art Florence, Italy 1981-83
Academy of Fine Arts—Sculpture MFA summa cum laude, Carrara, Italy 1983-88

Grants and Awards (selected)
1991–92 Austrian Ministry of Art and Education for Japan
1993 Cultural Artist Exchange: Austria/Brooklyn, NY
2005 Dubai, UAE: Emaar Artsymposium—1st Prize
2006 Zhengzhou, China: International City of Sculpture & Cultural Year—Golden Award
2006 Public Art for Beijing Olympics, City Sculpture Proposal
International Maquette Exposition—Merit Award

Public Collections (selected)
Shimada Art Museum—Kumamoto, Japan
Vorarlberg County Museum—Bregenz, Austria
Eda Garden Museum—Yokohama, Tokyo, Japan
City of Vienna, Austria—Federal Collection Artothek
RAIBA Bank Art Collection—Bregenz, Austria
City of Zhengzhou—China
Hualien County Sculpture wMuseum—Taiwan

International Sculpture Symposia (selected)
Hohenems, Austria
Reimei no-oka, Kickuchi Kougen, Kumamoto-Ken, Japan
Muraoka-cho, Hyogo-Ken, Japan
Kratstal-Klagenfurt, Austria
Hualien, Taiwan
Telc, Czech Republic
Kettering, Ohio, USA
Duba, United Arab Emirates
KaoShung, Taiwan
Puerto del Rosario, Fuerteventura, Spain
Hualien, Taiwan
Madinaty, Cairo, Egypt

Site-specific Public Sculpture Commissions (selected)
Dornbirn and Hohenems, Austria
Eda Garden Museum, Yokohama, Japan
Fukuoka, Japan
Vernon, BC, Canada
Beijing, China, Olympic Stadium
Austrian-born Caroline Ramersdorfer studied philosophy in Paris and sculpture in Carrara, Italy, and her sculpture is rooted in both disciplines. Commissions have come from around the globe, most recently Taiwan, Cairo, and Beijing. About eight years ago, a grant for a multimedia project led to the series Inner Views, works in marble that use light and space to create physical and spiritual interiors. Both large and small scale, her work is a study in contrasts—tense and fluid, weighty and ethereal—and speaks to the mutability of perception and experience.

Ramersdorfer carves into slabs of marble to reveal complex interior spaces crisscrossed by spindles, some as delicate as finger bones, others more substantial. Lit from within and without, the effect is of something both built and organic.

From without, these structures, with their sharp angles and imposing heft, are a vital presence. In one series, groups of diamond-shaped marble slabs sit solidly in metal stands, grounded with an inward energy. New works, resting on delicate metal piers or suspended from the ceiling, thrust outward, intruding into the space around them. In all her sculpture, the light plays off the marble, creating luminescent and living surfaces that dance around the focal point—the open interior. Thick and tactile carving frames the central opening, drawing the viewer inexorably in.

Peering inside, the view changes to something intricate, cell-like and through Ramersdorfer’s use of light, alive. Light and its passage are central to Ramersdorfer’s compositions, as seen in her video projections where individual shots of her marble interiors, taken sequentially as the light changed, morph into each other. The effect is of something pulsing, living.

The Inner Views series continues to evolve. In new work, Ramersdorfer has sheared away one side of the marble slab, shattering the boundary between surface and interior. This creates a lighter and more dynamic piece, where the interior is hard to define, always changing. By introducing an element of instability, Ramersdorfer reminds us that perception is subjective, an image or awareness that can change with the light. There is always another view, another way of seeing.

—Jacqueline Keren
A  INNER VIEW OPEN  2008
   MARBLE, STEEL  7’3”h x 3’4”l x 8”w

B  INNER VIEW SPLAY  2008
   MARBLE, STAINLESS STEEL  8’5”h x 5’8”l x 2’2”w

C  INNER VIEW EXPANDED  2006
   MARBLE, STEEL  5’7”h x 2’9”l x 2’4”w

D  INNER VIEW CELLSTRUCTURES VII  2007
   MARBLE, STEEL
   5’5”h x 1’5”l x 1’w

E  WAVE ECHO  2007
   MARBLE, STEEL  4’1”h x 2’2”l x 7”w

F  TRILOGY I, II, III  2008
   MARBLE, STAINLESS STEEL & WIRE
   INSTALLATION  12’h x 10’l x 8’w
   MARBLE ELEMENTS  5’9”h x 2’8”l x 2’1”w

Video-beamed Projections:

Reflecting
Inner Views
25 digital images

Three Panels Depicting Permanent International Installations:

Hualien County Sculpture Museum, Taiwan • 2007
Olympic Stadium, Beijing • 2007–2008
Madinaty, Cairo, Egypt • 2008
Each time I look at the work of Caroline Ramersdorfer, I am immediately transported back to the moment when I first encountered it—a late August afternoon visit to her studio, Caroline creating against the backdrop of a cool green Adirondack landscape. Completed sculptures were on display as well as those in progress, spread around the space. My attention quickly focused on one form in particular. Slabs of white marble, each carved out in the center then arranged in a stacked format that I had become accustomed to from photos of her sculptures. As I looked into the delicate organic interior space, an unexpected beam of sunlight filtered through the trees and pierced the sculpture. The effect of the light was nothing short of miraculous. The piece glowed from what seemed like an inner light, transforming the marble into an almost-living form. As the shaft of light receded, the form continued to change its personality until it returned to its original appearance. The process had lasted only a few minutes but the memory of that experience has been ingrained in my visual memory forever.

Sculpture is often thought of as a static art form. However, if the elements of light and space have been masterfully utilized by the artist, a sculpture can be transformed into a dynamic experience. This is truly the case with the compositions of Caroline Ramersdorfer. Viewers can readily see her interest in the contrasts of light, space and the dramatic changes made by the passage of time. Ramersdorfer’s art has been experienced and enjoyed around the world, from her native Austria, to the busy streets of Cairo, to the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

The Perrella Gallery is honored to present Caroline Ramersdorfer in our first-ever international exhibition. I express my gratitude to Caroline and all others who helped make this exhibition possible. I would like to give a special thanks to The Foundation of FM which has made this and other quality exhibitions possible.

—Joel Chapin, Director, Perrella Gallery
PERRELLA GALLERY
Fulton-Montgomery Community College
2805 State Highway 67
Johnstown • New York • USA
Monday through Friday • 10 AM to 5 PM
Extended hours • Thursdays until 9 PM
or by appointment
Saturday, October 25 • 10 AM to 1 PM
Closed weekends and holidays

ARTIST’S RECEPTION
7 to 9 PM
Saturday, September 20, 2008