The Hall Art Foundation Presents a Summer of Outdoor Sculpture

Richard Deacon

Richard Deacon (b. 1949) has been a leading figure in British sculpture since the 1980s. He describes himself as a fabricator who constructs objects using manufacturing or building techniques, rather than as a sculptor who carves or models. In a career spanning more than four decades, Deacon has worked with a diverse range of materials including laminated wood, stainless steel, corrugated iron, polycarbonate, marble, clay, vinyl, foam and leather. Working on both domestic and monumental scales, he manipulates his materials to create structures that combine organic and biomorphic forms with elements of engineering. Deacon’s Untitled 1991 (1991), made of painted welded steel, consists of three vertical loops intersected and linked along their top and bottom horizontal axes. Using a technique called heat-line bending, Deacon transforms a flat plate of steel into a three-dimensional and organic form. The anthropomorphic shapes, resembling eyes, ears or open mouths, are joined together in a dynamic and airy structure that contradicts the rigidity and heaviness inherent to the material of steel.

Olafur Eliasson

Throughout the past two decades, the installations, paintings, photography, films, and public projects of Danish-Icelandic artist, Olafur Eliasson (b. 1967), have served as tools for exploring the cognitive and cultural conditions that inform our perception. Ranging from immersive environments of color, light, and movement to installations that recontextualize natural phenomena, his work defies the notion of art as an autonomous object. Described by the artist as “devices for the experience of reality,” his works prompt a greater sense of awareness about the ways we both interpret and co-produce the world.

By recreating the natural through artificial means and capturing it in both time and space, Eliasson’s work encourages the renegotiation of linear perceptions of space as well as the line between reality and representation.

Eliasson’s Waterfall (2004) confronts fundamental perceptions of nature while addressing notions of space and movement. Using everyday industrial scaffolding and a system of plastic pumps that cycle the water, the artist evokes the site, sounds and rhythms of a natural waterfall, while also exposing the mechanics behind its construction and movement. Blurring the lines between the natural and constructed, this work invites viewers to reconsider their own experiences of nature, contemplating not just what they see, but how they see.

Marc Quinn

British artist Marc Quinn (b. 1964) is known for making work that challenges the boundaries between art and science. Using a wide range of media including ice, glass, metal, marble and lead, Quinn’s work addresses the transience of human life through scientific knowledge and artistic expression. Standing at nearly 20 feet tall, Quinn’s The Incredible World of Desire (Phragmidium Scorpioides) (2003–2004) appears to the human eye like what a real orchid must look like to a bee. A highly detailed and colorful photographic image of a Phragmidium Scorpioides orchid has been transferred onto a stainless steel framework.

Of all plants, Quinn describes his fascination with orchids in particular: “Orchids are like perfectly evolved little sculptures in themselves, they’re full of colour, interesting shapes and beauty. Even though they are a plant’s reproductive organs, they put on human ones, too. They make you realize it is colour, life and sexuality that keeps the world turning. They are a celebration of life. I like all kinds of flowers, irises, sunflowers and amaranthums are great but none are quite as good as orchids.”

The Hall Art Foundation is located at 551 VT Route 106 in Reading, VT. It is open weekends and Wednesdays by appointment at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Admission is free. For more information call (802) 952-1056. info@hallartfoundation.org. www.hallartfoundation.org.