

GORDON MURRAY

## ARTIST STATEMENT

I have been putting ink on paper for more than thirty years in the “fine art” mediums as well as “commercial” printing environments. In 1997, I returned to college full time, for a Bachelor of Fine Arts at SUNY Purchase. There I studied both traditional and modern methods of printmaking. With the opportunity to study again with Antonio Frasconi my focus became “The Art of the Book”. The sequential mode of the handmade book, either poetically or politically, allows for an unfolding examination of both words and image that at their best elevate and deepen the meaning and impact of one another. My prints and books often contain political or social themes that attempt to motivate the reader to examine the historical or repetitive nature of the human condition.

As a young adult I worked in a shipyard, did automotive customizing, and some construction. From this work I learned some of the elements of fabrication and design. It was while attending Lehman College for my MFA that I found myself drawn to sculpture as a means of expression. The facilities as well as the encouraging environment, allowed me to explore, and problem solve in 3-D form. My thesis presentation and graduate show included fabricated and welded steel sculpture. I found welding steel to be a malleable and fluid means of expression, and not-dissimilar to the sculptural qualities of my woodcuts and the hand-cut type of my bookwork.

I am also a student of art history and I make art for a variety of reasons. One reason is that I enjoy challenging myself with visual and technical problems. The resulting ideas and where they lead maintain my curiosity. The carving of woodcuts and especially working sculpture has a physicality that is direct. Grinding, cutting, gouging, carving, shaping, and welding; all while evolving ideas of resolution, is exhilarating. This creative place is often one of a private solitude. Working in the studio for eight to twelve hours is exhausting and satisfying. There is a point of confluence, where, in gifted moments, an artist touches some abstract thoughts and elevates our collective consciousness.

I work now in several mediums and these are sculpture, printmaking, and artist's books. If a sculpture is flat enough I will ink it and print it. Computers are a tool that I increasingly use in my creative process.

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My sculpture is more lyrical than my prints; or at least less political. I work to create objects that satisfy my own criteria as well as give pause to the viewer, a thoughtful moment, or a smile. Art is visual literacy and as such can have meanings and values beyond what is visible. Different materials can reflect different ideas. Sometimes it is simply that something looks more interesting or in balance, this way instead of that way. I have my own presses and studio and I continue printmaking and working in sculpture. I look forward to teaching at the college level.

## EDUCATION

- 2005 **Master of Fine Arts**, Lehman College CUNY, Bronx, NY (Sculpture)
- 2001 **Bachelor of Fine Arts**, SUNY Purchase, NY (Print & Book Arts/Paper Sculpture)
- 2001 **Certificate in Art History Concentration**, (40 Credits) SUNY Purchase, NY

## EXHIBITION RECORD (\*SOLO SHOWS)

- 2006 Nathan Cumming Foundation, New York, NY. (*Unstitched, Unbound: Prints for Change*)
- 2005 \*Bronx Community College: Bliss Gallery, Bronx, NY
- 2005 Lehman College NY, Graduate Art Exhibition (main gallery)  
\*Second exhibit of additional and large works (center gallery)
- 2004 - 2005 National Arts Club New York, NY,
- 2004 - 2005 \*Lehman College: Gray Gallery, Bronx, NY
- 2003 - 2004 John Cotton Dana Library, Rutgers University, Newark NJ
- 2003 Hunter College, Times Square Gallery, New York, NY, CAA and  
New York Area MFA Exhibition
- 2003 Casola Gallery: Peekskill, NY. Curator: *August*
- 2002 - 2003 William Patterson University, Wayne, NJ, Ben Shahn Center Galleries
- 2001 \*School House Gallery: Croton Falls, NY

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2005 Lehman College: Geldwerth Scholarship Award, (Sculpture)
- 2005 National Arts Club: William & Marie Samuels Award, (Sculpture)
- 1999 Puffin Fellowship: *BLUES*, (Prints)

## WORKS IN COLLECTIONS

Ben Shahn Center Galleries: William Patterson University, Wayne, NJ  
Stanford University Libraries, Department of Special Collections: Stanford, CA  
Private Corporation, Boston, MA