

For Barry Eisenhart, art imitates life to some degree. A sculptor, he is also a fitness trainer. And as one sculpting of bodies complements the other, Eisenhart explores a Zen philosophy of how one wishes to be seen in this world. His work “allows viewers their own perspective,” the artist says.

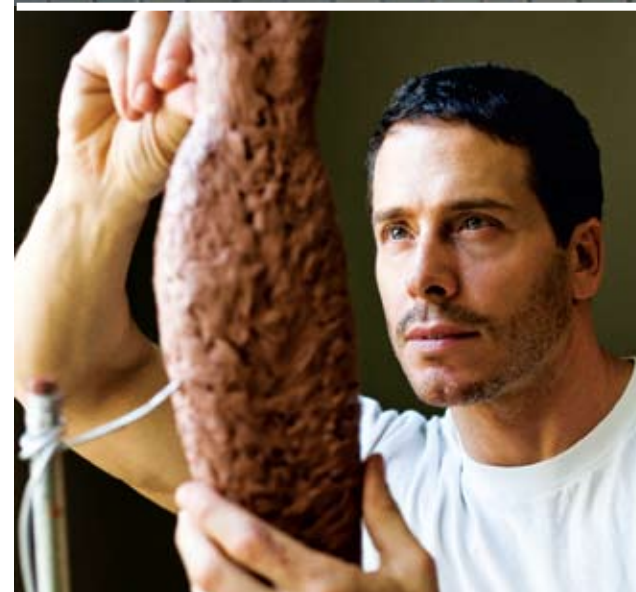
STORY BY **BLAIR SCHULMAN**

“Marilyn On” (above) is a bronze with light brown patina that measures 9.5 inches by 14 inches. “[This is] an animated triptych of Marilyn [Monroe] playing to her fans, working the energy of her fans,” creator Barry Eisenhart says.

Bearing a similarly positive attitude, many of his pieces have open, or negative, spaces that allow the eye to wander all around the work without being invasive. “It’s like being a non-threatening voyeur,” Eisenhart says.

When the sculptor’s inspiration is sparked—usually by something he has seen or imagined—he sketches the concept immediately. This process drives the beginning stages of the sculpture’s creation, which in total can take up to six months. However, the actual piece continues its evolution up until the time the mold is taken to the foundry and made into bronzes.

Eisenhart, whose work is available through local independent art curator and advisor Kim Weinberger (2500 West Pennway), often creates figures with small heads. This relaxes the visual impact, Eisenhart says, making the figures “beautiful... but not always conventionally so,” with a fluidity that recalls the powerful works of Wilhelm Lehmbruck and Antony Gormley. Overall, Eisenhart’s creative progression becomes a search for simplicity in form and shape with a consistency that can be appreciated by the viewer. ■



THIS PAGE, clockwise from top left: “Spring Moment” is a bronze with green patina that stands 18.25 inches tall. “It was spring, and I wanted to make a figure to express the joy of beginnings,” Eisenhart says. “[The] berries and flower were patterned after what I found blooming in my neighborhood.”

Of “Sea Portal,” a 4-foot-tall organic sculpture, the artist (shown at left in his studio) says, “A sea shell found in New Zealand inspired the sensual curves and vulnerable interior.”

“Dancer Stretching” is a bronze with light brown patina. “I wanted to capture the geometric elegance of a stretching female figure, whose intertwining curves direct their energy into a single point,” he says.