



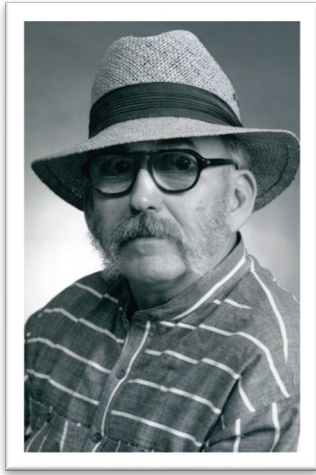
Artist Welding, 1986



Hell on Wheels, 1996

James Gibson: A Life in Sculpture
A Retrospective Exhibition
March 14–April 2, 2022
MTSU Todd Gallery

A Life in Sculpture



MTSU's Todd Art Gallery will celebrate the life and work of the late Professor Emeritus James S. Gibson with a 3-week retrospective exhibit of sculpture that spans his entire career of over 50 years as an artist.

The exhibit will share his life's work with the community and raise funds for James S. Gibson Sculpture Scholarship, established for students pursuing a BFA in Studio Art with an emphasis in sculpture. Fifty percent of sales from the exhibit are committed to the sculpture scholarship.

"James Gibson: A Life in Sculpture" opens Saturday, March 14, at 8:30 a.m. and continues through Saturday, April 2, at 4:30 p.m. An opening reception is planned for Saturday, March 14 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Professor Gibson was a native of West Virginia where he received his BS & BA from the University of Charleston in 1958 and his Master of Fine Arts degree in sculpture from Ohio University in 1961. He taught at MTSU for 29 years from 1970 until 1999 and influenced countless students and inspired many to attend graduate school.

His reputation during those years was best captured by Clara Hieronymus, the Art and Drama Critic for the Tennessean. "He seems to me to be the prototype of the ideal teacher-artist. Which is to say that his own creative talents speak for what he is teaching his students; that he is both teacher and respected artist." He often said, "if my teaching goes well, my sculpture goes well."

His retirement in 1999 marked the beginning of another vibrant period of creativity, in which 200 sculptures would emerge from his studio at home in Murfreesboro. Upon his death in 2018 at the age of 81, his legacy as an artist includes over 530 sculptures, 13 major commissions, and 128 exhibitions in galleries across the country.

His work is in many national and international collections and has been included in numerous invitational and juried exhibitions. His work is also held in many Nashville area collections including Vanderbilt University, Nissan, Bridgestone, Middle Tennessee State University, and the Frist Center for the Visual Arts. His work is also a part of the permanent collections of the states of Tennessee and West Virginia.

Statements by the Artist

1977: "If my sculpture has any aesthetic significance it is due to an ability to present that fine line or path between that which is physical and metaphysical as experienced by me."

1996: "Mythology is the dominant influence in my sculpture. Specifically, my focus is on the variety in repetition and continuation of stories, symbols, and numbers."

2006: "I find the universality of the human figure dominates the starting point in my work and is of greater interest to me than other objects found in nature."

2013: "Early in my endeavors, the revelation of subject matter, form, and content in visual art content influenced me greatly. This triad, the universality of the human figure, plus mythology has continued to be significant in the development of my shapes and color vocabulary. My work is a visual product influenced by memories, experiences, dreams, visions, and things not known. It is least of all from things that can be said, discussed, or talked about without risking confusion and misinterpretation."

Sculpture Scholarship

To make a gift in memory of Jim Gibson to the James Gibson Memorial Sculpture Scholarship please visit www.mtsu.edu/give and include the Jim Gibson Memorial Sculpture Scholarship in the "other/giving preferences." Alternatively, you can make a gift by mail addressed to: MTSU Foundation, Box 109, Murfreesboro, TN 37132. Make checks payable to the MTSU Foundation and include "Jim Gibson Memorial Sculpture Scholarship" on the memo line of check.

For questions contact Meredith Kerr, Director of Development, College of Liberal Arts.

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Sculptures



Negotiation of a Left Turn
1971
Welded Steel
35"
NFS



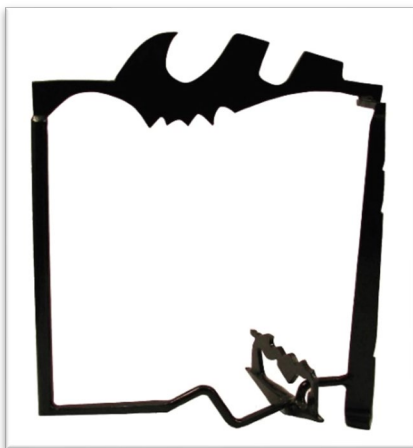
Top Hat Seated Bird
1971
Welded Corten Steel & Brass
20.25 x 12.5 x 8"
NFS



Hey Bird!
1978
Welded Corten Steel on
Aluminum
49 x 28 x 18"
USD 6,000



Bird Writing Machine
1981
Welded Steel
12 x 7.5 x 4.5"
USD 2,500



Metaphysical Writing Machine
1983
Welded & Painted Steel
25 x 23 x 10"
USD 2,400



What Game Is This
1987
Welded Steel, Brass, Aluminum
14.5 x 28 x 6.75"
USD 3,800



The Chair
1989
Welded Steel
71.25 x 16 x 17"
NFS



Leader
1994
Stainless Steel
86 x 12 x 12"
USD 8,000



Hell on Wheels I
1996
Welded Steel, Brass, & Aluminum
10 x 21.5 x 7.5"
USD 4,000



Self-Surfing Id
1998
Carved & Painted Wood
69 x 31 x 19.5"
USD 3,800



Tinker's Toy
1998
Welded Steel & Brass on Aluminum
Base
86 x 21 x 15"
USD 4,500



L.A. Garr
1999
Welded Steel
53.5 x 15 x 11"
USD 4,200



William of Dougherty
2002
Carved & Painted Wood
68.5 x 8 x 7.5"
USD 5,000



Figure (Aluminum Head)
2004
Carved Purple Heart & Painted
Wood & Cast & Turned
Aluminum
52.5 x 7.5 x 5.25"
USD 3,000



Burden Bearer
2010
Welded Steel
28 x 12 x 6"
USD 3,200



Hello to Chongqing
2010
Carved & Painted Wood
50.5 x 18 x 10"
USD 3,500



Mind of the Beholder
2012
Welded Bronze
62 x 15.25 x 12.25"
USD 4,500



Point of Departure
2014
Carved & Painted Wood
72 x 15 x 10"
USD 4,500



Daughter of Time
2016
Carved & Painted Wood
33.75 x 10 x 5.5"
USD 2,800



March 25th the Man
2017
Carved & Painted Wood
66 x 10 x 10"
USD 4,000



Mender's Marker
2017
Carved & Painted Wood
55.5 x 10 x 10"
USD 3,600