

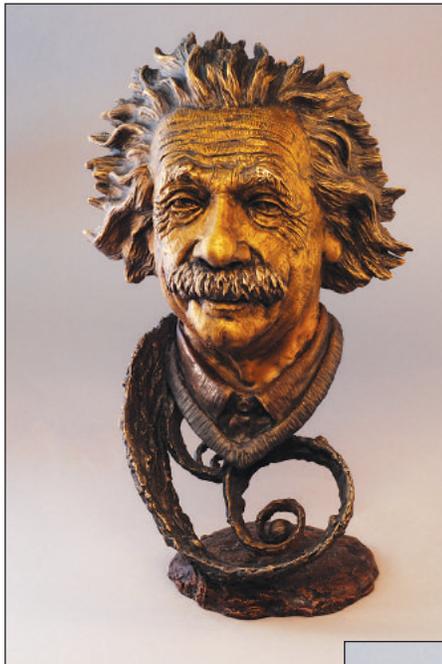
After 25 Years, the Crucible is Still Hot!



In our last newsletter beauty and brawn reigned as the prominent themes. We're starting 2013 with a different theme — brains! And who better represents the immense power of the mind than Albert Einstein? After numerous requests for a likeness of the brilliant thinker, Mark has completed a portrait so alive that one viewer commented, "Mr. Einstein must have been right there in your studio! You have caught his amazing presence with your talent!"

It's a perfect subject in a newsletter that focuses on the creative genius that evolved into Mark Hopkins Sculpture.

In addition to *Einstein*, Mark has created a charming piece for Mother's Day. Each of these limited edition works will arrive with a certificate inscribed with the name of the honored



Einstein



Mothers

mother as the title. This delicate design of a butterfly as it lands on a blade of grass will delight any mother and all who look for the first hint of green bursting through the soil.



Fathers



Embrace

Of course Mark hasn't forgotten fathers, offering a new fish piece that will also bear the name of the honored dad for a title.

Eli Hopkins will warm many hearts with his adorable elephant piece called *Embrace*. This devoted mother elephant with her baby in a tender

squeeze will appeal to animal lovers and soft hearts everywhere. Similar in style to his popular *Mama Bear*, this piece will bring joy to many.

Highlights

The highlight of our year will be a celebration of 25 YEARS in business! Although Mark Hopkins' sculpting career began much earlier, his ascendance as a nationally recognized artist began in 1988. This and following newsletters will feature a retrospective including photos of some of Mark's landmark works. Another way we are commemorating this momentous year is through our revamped website. Please go to MarkHopkinsSculpture.com to see the improvements we have made. Also, be sure to check out Eli's new "interactive" website ArtOfEliHopkins.com.

The Beginning

If you ask Mark Hopkins how long he has been sculpting, he is likely to respond, "Since before I was born." The first time he felt clay in his hands and shaped it into a recognizable form, he felt he had come home. As a child, many recognized Mark's ability to draw and paint. But it wasn't until he discovered sculpture that he found his true passion. With any creative material he could get his hands on, even melted down toy models, Mark sculpted.

Throughout his growing years Mark studied and practiced becoming adept at many art forms and earned a scholarship to the Atlanta School of Art. Along the way he found sculpting wax to be his favorite medium: soft enough when warm to shape easily, but holding its shape when cool. This quality reduces the need for extensive armatures, giving Mark great flexibility to change his design as a piece evolves.

In college Mark found art classes to be a frustrating experience. While learning some valuable techniques, he questioned many of his professors' traditional ideas and prescribed methods. Imposed limitations only served as a challenge to his fertile brain, expanding his ideas and approaches to art.

In adulthood Mark labored at other avenues of work. But he never stopped hoping to use his God-given

talents to earn a living. He taught himself several casting techniques to make his sculpture permanent, such as pewter and cold-cast bronze.

Though word of mouth generated some sales, they were insufficient to support his family. Mark needed to find other ways to sell his work so he sought and found some success at art and craft shows, a few galleries, and several other venues. As his work came to be much admired, Mark's income through art increased but true success remained elusive.

Then in the mid-1980's, as Mark worked in his one-room studio in rural north Georgia, he was approached by a local doctor who had purchased several of Mark's cold-cast sculptures. The doctor commissioned Mark to sculpt a life-sized work of his son Benjamin. Knowing that this work needed to be stronger than cold-cast bronze to endure in a garden setting, Mark searched for a suitable foundry where the work could be cast in the classic medium for sculpture — traditional hot-cast bronze.

Despite exhaustive research Mark could not find a suitable foundry in the area. The few local art foundries had unreasonable time frames, while the more efficient, industrial-type facilities were lacking in artistic delicacy. With his usual innovative approach

Mark realized that what he needed was a blend — the efficiency of an industrial foundry wedded to the artistic sensibilities of an art foundry. To this manufacturing concept Mark's development added another advantage — an artist who understood the processes involved and could help streamline each step, producing beautiful art at a reasonable price.

As with many new ideas, this was easier said than done. Much like the labor required in bringing a baby into the world, the birth of a foundry required blood, sweat and tears. Mark was able to bring together a committed and imaginative team of artistic craftsmen. Though not easy, the effort yielded some truly revolutionary methods. By late 1988, Mark Hopkins Sculpture became a reality.



Mark shown here with his first "bronze" sculpture **Benjamin**, both the life-size and small versions.

To be continued...

A few earlier classic pieces by Mark

Ancient of Days



Bedtime



Treehouse



Sunrise



Fishing Hole

Great Blue Heron



Good Trade

Artist's Corner

In contemplating the huge achievement of 25 years in business, Mark's primary thoughts were of gratitude. The artist said, "As much as my work involves lots — *and lots* — of just plain hard work, it also gives me great satisfaction and pleasure. I have been very blessed with the life and the talent I have been given. In addition to the 25th anniversary of our business, I also celebrated my 60th birthday this year. When I look back on my life, I am filled with deep appreciation for the people who helped me get to this point — for my family, especially my wife, for the creative people who helped us put the



business together, and for the collectors who make it possible for us to keep doing what we love.

"I never thought when I was younger that I would ever be able to achieve such success. Art is a difficult business. But I couldn't avoid what my heart told me was my calling in life — to do good in the world and be a positive influence on other people. I might not save lives, like a surgeon, but I hope I brighten lives with my work — remind them of the joy and beauty in life. I am driven to sculpt, but I have to choose how to use that drive. I have always tried to make my work uplifting — nothing that would discourage or degrade. I'll answer to God one day for how I have used my life and my gifts — I want to make it a happy reunion."

2013 Spring and Summer Events

Bolder Open Arts Festival

Boulder, Colorado

July 20-21

Eli will be exhibiting some of his and Mark's work.

Loveland Sculpture Invitational

Loveland, Colorado

August 9-11

Both Mark and Eli will attend.

See our website and Facebook page for more events and join our mailing list.





Bronze Sculpture

P.O. Box 7659
Loveland, CO 80537
970.613.0322

www.markhopkinssculpture.com

Our mission is to create an enduring legacy of beauty and excellence in bronze to enhance the lives of those who will own a Mark Hopkins Sculpture.

Through the daily work of our hands, we will share the eternal nobility of our hearts and minds.

From the diversity of our individual talents and strengths, we will forge a great unity of purpose and achieve unlimited success and prosperity.

Editors: Laurie Hopkins, Jenay Hopkins
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A Few Notes

Mark has been heard to thank his collectors by saying, "I couldn't do it without you" and it is so true. On a large scale Mark and Eli have both sculpted monuments and memorials where community members' input was vital. With so many cities required to set aside a "percent for the arts," there has been an increase in public art and with your help your city could enjoy a Mark Hopkins sculpture. Let us know if your community is looking for high-quality artwork and contact your local city council with support.

One recent private commission Mark completed for a couple was a set of children flying kites to represent each of their grandchildren. If you are looking for a heritage piece or something uniquely yours, let Mark bring it to life for you.



Kite Kids



Mud Buddies playing at a community park

Contact Jenay at 800-678-6564 or email hopkinsbronze@gmail.com



Links to our new websites.