

Charles Arnoldi

born 1946, Dayton, Ohio
resides in Los Angeles, California

education / professional experience

After high school, Arnoldi moved from Ohio to Los Angeles. He moved from Ventura Junior College to Chouinard Art Institute with the intention of studying commercial illustration. On a trip to New York before starting his college classes, he realized that discipline and hard work are the keys to an artist's success and he changed his major to painting from illustration.

ROARK

sculpture, 1984
bronze, steel
located next to the pool in the Museum Garden

description / design

The overall symmetry of the rectangular shape and the size of ROARK contrast well with its chaotic, fragile arrangement. A large tangled box of welded bronze twigs uses the spaces between the delicate linear branches to balance the large overwhelming form. Arnoldi's usual material, wood, is cast in bronze, allowing for outdoor display. The tree branch is a recurring element in Arnoldi's work.

subject / title

Roark is the name of a character in Ayn Rand's book, *The Fountainhead*, exploring the complexity of human relationships and values in the inescapable maze of the 20th century business world.

style

Arnoldi is a painter as well as a sculptor. His painted abstract reliefs are an ingenious solution to the problem of developing a kind of sculpture which is a convincing parallel to abstract painting. A recent exhibit described the unifying elements of Arnoldi's work as "a predilection for ductile, pliant matter, manifested in the tarry pigment of the heavily worked painted surfaces, the kneaded, fingercombed forms of the sculpture and the gouged, chopped and encrusted substance of the slab-like wall reliefs. A second element is a vibrant organicism." Over his career, Arnoldi has used strong geometric arrangements and natural colors, as well as free flowing arrangements of the tree branch or wooden linear shapes, the recurring motif in his work.

tour anecdotes

Although appearing light and airy, ROARK weighs more than a ton. An industrial crane lifted the sculpture over the roof of the Museum to permanent installation in the garden. Charles Arnoldi for part of his professional life shared a L.A. studio with Frank O'Gehry, architect of The Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain.