



CATCHING UP WITH **THE ARTIST**

RICHARD MACDONALD

As one of the most lauded and accomplished figurative sculptors in the world, Richard MacDonald has seen his work featured at the Olympics in Atlanta, the U.S. Open in Pebble Beach and the Royal Ballet in London. However, he chooses to spend most of his time in Las Vegas where he lives and works at a penthouse on the Strip.

“Las Vegas has incredible energy,” he says. “And it continues to build.” MacDonald also has a studio in Monterey and a home in Carmel. He says he’s able to draw inspiration from the tranquil beaches of Northern California as well as the high-intensity excitement of Nevada’s largest city. “The paradox is spectacular,” he says with a laugh. “I walked the beach yesterday, but today I’m on the Strip.”

The connection to Las Vegas dates back to an exhibit in the early 90s when he was represented by Galleria Di Sorrento at the Forum Shops at Caesars. MacDonald later developed a partnership with Guy Laliberte, the founder of Cirque du Soleil, to present two galleries on the Strip — the “O” Theatre lobby at the Bellagio in 2008 and CityCenter in 2009. Each one features more than 50 sculptures as well as drawings and other works on display. While MacDonald draws inspiration from the dexterity and athleticism of Cirque performers — aerialists, dancers and mimes who often serve as models for his pieces — he doesn’t recreate show characters.

“That would be too easy,” he says. “If you do characters in a show, then it becomes more of a commercial venture

PHOTOS BY AN&D STUDIOS



THE ARTIST CONTINUED...

than a fine art venture. I would rather work with the Cirque performers and invent new concepts and forms."

MacDonald does acknowledge that marketing and relationships are an important part of his business. To satisfy demand at the busy "O" Theatre, smaller reproductions of original sculptures are offered for sale, although the initial pieces on which they're based were never created with commerce in mind.

The balance of art and economics was dramatically different earlier in MacDonald's career, when he was a painter and commercial illustrator for Fortune 500 companies. He took up bronze sculpting as a hobby, which eventually led to a series of commissions for monumental works. Things changed drastically in 1988 when a fire wiped out his studio and he shifted direction to gallery work. "I went from zero to over 70 galleries worldwide in a matter of a few years," he says.

MacDonald now creates art on his own terms and lets the money and acclaim follow. He may do a commissioned piece every now and then — perhaps one every 10 years for a major client like the Olympics or the 100th U.S. Open — but he retains full artistic control by contract. When you commission a work by Richard MacDonald, you're commissioning his inspiration. "The art has to be purely from the artist's view of the world," he explains.

While Las Vegas is still developing its identity as an art community, it continues to be an environment where inspiration and motivation can come at a moment's notice. To see it on full display, visit one of Richard MacDonald's galleries. You'll be captivated and inspired by the beauty and energy of the human form like never before. ■



**RICHARD
MACDONALD**
b. 1946

Gathering of Graces

In mythology, The Three Graces symbolize radiance, joy and blossoming life. MacDonald has created a magnificent waterfall as an expression of the joyous spirit and sensuous beauty of the Graces.

Bronze
148 x 72 x 42"

THE ART OF
**RICHARD
MACDONALD**

Presented by CIRQUE DU SOLEIL™

theArtOfRichardMacDonald.com
702.730.3990

FINE ART GALLERIES
Las Vegas | Carmel | Laguna Beach
Hong Kong | Palm Desert | Singapore