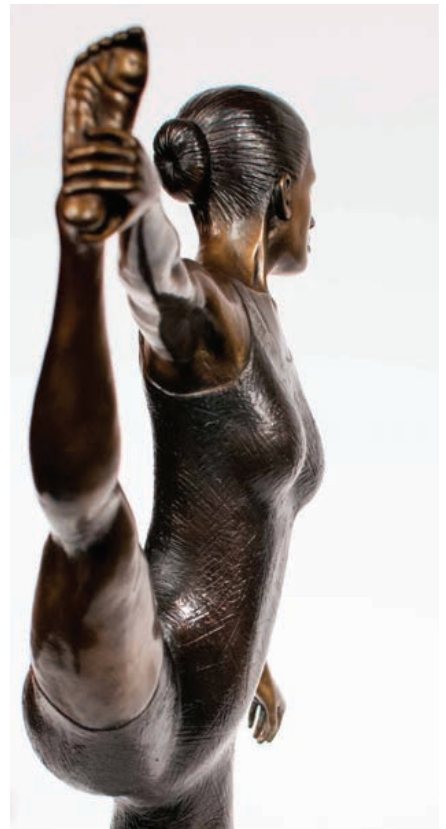


DONALD WATTS
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



D. Watts, *Poise*, 2010
Bronze; 20" x 2.5" x 12"





D. Watts, *Id*, 2010
Bronze; 15" x 4" x 12"



My reasons for creating art are many and varied. Since early youth I have been hyper-visual. As far back as I can remember I have been deeply affected by what my eyes take in. Color, form, shape, texture, pattern, line; I have always been extremely tuned-in to these things at a level that is almost visceral. Ever since I was a child, art has been an escape. I remember, even at a young age, turning to drawing or sculpture to deal with emotional problems. Creative activity is an outlet that helps me maintain balance, so oftentimes I create simply because it enhances my mood. Mostly I make art because I like to be challenged, both creatively and intellectually. And as much as I like to be challenged, I also like to do the challenging, so sometimes I make art to provoke or agitate. The ultimate goal of my work is to have a psychological impact on the viewer.

More than anything, I find inspiration in nature and within nature I am inspired most by the human form. The art I like most is representational and so it is with my own art. This is not to say that I don't appreciate a little abstraction. Without a little abstraction I would just be a copy machine reproducing what I see. But for me, when things are too abstract they become removed from what is universally understood about the human condition. In my opinion, good art—whether it be film, sculpture, or songwriting—contributes something to our understanding of what it means to be an uncertain human being.

My preferred art form is sculpture: seeing things in the round reminds me to look at my life and the world around me with the same perspective. I have worked only with clay and metal. In addition to sculpture, I love to draw. I have recently discovered a love for pen and ink and watercolor. Also, I am currently exploring digital media and—when I have some time—I'd love to learn more about photography.