

ART

SculptureNow

By Greg Hitchcock

LENOX – SculptureNow Lenox 2012 is an exhibit of 21 large outdoor sculptures in Lenox and five sculptures in Hinsdale. Lenox's exhibit can be seen from June 5 to Oct. 27 and Hinsdale's from June 8, 2012 to June 1, 2013.

Celebrating its 15th year, SculptureNow was started by Ann Jon with other Berkshire sculptors trying to find a place for their art.

"Sculpture is often too big and heavy for a trip to New York, so we decided to reach people here and from Boston," Jon said.



Sculptor and Univ. of Kansas professor, Matthew Burke, installs his sculpture with the assistance of Walter Brown and Maeve Dwyer of Railroad Street Youth Project.



Totem 2, by Sculptor Jonathan Prince

SculptureNow grew by attracting national and international sculptors including Kansas Sculptor Mathew Burke who had help creating a sculpture in Lenox from members of Railroad Street Youth Project of Great Barrington and other volunteers.

"This exhibit appeals to a wider audience than those that go to museums," Jon said. "For local residents and for visitors, our exhibits are open and have no entry fees. Some people are intimidated by museums. We bring art to the public, not the public to the art."

Berkshire sculptor Jonathan Prince created a sculpture titled "Totem 2," which is 12 ½ feet tall by 2 feet wide and based on his Torn Steel method of creating sculpture. He explained that he is attracted to forms with their surfaces interrupted by a break or fracture. Because of a recent interest in steel fabrication, Prince developed a technique that simulates the look of fractured stone that

he refers to as "Torn Steel".

"This is finding beauty in the breaks," Prince said. "It is absolutely about the human condition so the pieces are designed so that viewers can decide for themselves what it means to them. It can mean something hit by a bolt of lightning or to another an incomplete life. The answers come to you internally."

Prince said he is drawn toward reinterpretation of man-made objects familiar in form but mysterious in function.

"This is simple geometry with fractures. Any one of the fractures could be painful yet beautiful at the same time," he said.

SculptureNow tries to be in a different town in the Berkshires displaying different sculptures each year. The last time the exhibit was in Lenox was in 2008.

SculptureNow also offers school sculpture workshops beginning in September and ending in October with a tour.