



Travis Heying/DN

Sculptor Richard Hunt presents a lecture at the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, Thursday. Hunt's presentation coincided with an exhibition of his work that concludes Oct. 16.

Sculptor creates from garbage

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

Born in Chicago in 1935, sculptor Richard Hunt's works are products of his industrial environment.

Hunt gave a lecture and slide presentation explaining his sculptures and prints at the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery and Sculpture Garden Thursday.

The presentation coincided with the gallery's exhibit, "Richard Hunt: A Sculptor on Paper."

Hunt presented works from the late '50s through today. Although the exhibit featured his drawings of sculptures, the presentation focused on his actual sculptures.

"I used two-dimensional drawings for a variety of reasons from doodling to a larger scale in expressing graphic designs," Hunt said. "It's an interesting way to break some of the long, hard works with sculpture."

"It's doing something more concrete."

Hunt said he progressed from drawing with "crayons and pencils on paper and any other surface in the house" when he was a child to his drawing and printing classes in high school.

After a high school sculpture class, Hunt said he found his following. A sample of Hunt's school drawings and prints included a lithography modeled after Milton's "Paradise Lost." Hunt cited T.S. Elliot and Franz Schubert as his influences.

Hunt said he went on to more abstract surrealist work in the late '50s and '60s. In the mid-'50s, Hunt created "Arachny" — a large metal sculpture of a human spider figure.

He said he was inspired by a "Sculptures of the 20th Century" display that featured work before and after World War II by Pablo Picasso and Julio Gonzalez.

The industrial nature of Hunt's work makes his sculptures and drawings resemble organic mechanisms done in steel, bronze, chrome, copper and other elements.

Much of what he finds, he said, comes from environmental leftovers or garbage — discarded aluminum pipes, chrome bumpers and stainless steel scraps.

Hunt's public sculptures are displayed in parks, hospitals, lakefronts, libraries, business complexes and state buildings in Illinois, Washington, New York and Tennessee.

One of his sculptures, "Icarus," is suspended over Lake Michigan.

Hunt concluded his presentation with a "what I did this summer" story as he displayed a variety of mainly columnar sculptures that are also on display over Lake Michigan.

Hunt's exhibit will be on display until Oct. 16.

Joffrey

Continued from Page 12

Versatility lent a hand when the Joffrey encountered American rock concept — "Billboards."

"It's a combination of ballet and America. It does really excite the audience," Sandler said. "The lighting is spectacular, the energy, the costumes, everything about it. You get your money's worth."

The style of "Billboards" owes much to the creations of musician Prince Rogers Nelson, once known as Prince and now known by a symbol.

Sklute said "Billboards" was the continual expression of Prince's music in different venues.

"It's making fun of it. It's finding it in its purest work with sexy bump-and-grind. It's the expression of dance today," Sklute said.

Although Prince never worked one-on-one with the dancers, he threw a party for the company at his studio in Minneapolis.

"He was very shy, very quiet," Sklute said. "He had an incredibly deep voice for such a little man. He's a very tiny guy, but he has very big hair."

Sklute said he knew little about Prince's music before "Billboards."

"Now, I have this incredible respect for his versatility," he said. "His repertoire is so expansive, it changes his music."

The world premier of "Billboards" wasn't in New York or Los Angeles.

It was at Hancher Auditorium in Iowa City, Iowa, on Jan. 27, 1993. Since then, Iowa City has been a focal point for The Joffrey Ballet.

When the ballet was in its early stages, Iowa City lent its financial and emotional support, Sklute said.

"Iowa City is an important place for us," he said. "They don't have major ballet companies come through all the time, and they have a lot to offer us."

The Joffrey Ballet will perform three shows in Lincoln, beginning Friday at 8 p.m. Additional performances are Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Regular tickets are \$36, \$32 and \$28, and student tickets are half price.

Arpino

Continued from Page 12

generous, philanthropic person. He's helped The Joffrey Ballet survive."

If the Joffrey survives, art thrives.

"What's interesting is that 'Billboards' is pulling in audiences that would not go to dance or the opera or theater," Arpino said. "In many levels, that's the phenomenon. We're bringing in all ages."

Arpino said "Billboards" was a "milestone in dance history."

"It reflects the now. Our time. Our rhythms. Our styles and sense of movement," he said. "Billboards' captures voguing, rhythms and music that's inundating our homes and streets."

"It's now. It's not the '60s, '70s or '80s. It's absolutely the way it is now reflected on the tubes, discos," he said.

Arpino said his goal was to bring in the audiences from the "baseball, football and basketball families" and show them how intense classical ballet could be.

Arpino, who grew up in a Catholic Italian family and graduated as valedictorian of his class, said he had to overcome the lack of understanding and acceptance from his family and peers.

"Ballet was a foreign term. My personal mission always has been get rid of the elitist circle people draw around the arts — especially ballet," he said. "I want to draw everyone in."

"Macho males" were to blame for drawing this circle, he said.

"The locker-room attitude considers it effeminate to be artistic and sensitive," he said.

Arpino said he wanted to start introducing the arts to the young children.

"I want to say to the boys, 'Go out and play baseball, but we're having class in ballet and in music appreciation,'" he said. "I want to make arts as much as part of our

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GERALD ARPINO

Joffrey Ballet's
artistic director

life as basketball and football are."

Arpino said he'd already seen a change. He lives in Greenwich Village in New York. He went to an eatery one day and met Steve, a football player whose girlfriend was crazy about dance.

"He said 'You know, Mr. A., Daphne is crazy about your work. She told me you were doing a whole rock evening to Prince,'" Arpino said. "Steve told me he'd never been to a ballet because he thought it wasn't anything he wanted to see."

Arpino said Steve proved the ballet was a great "make-out place."

"Then Steve said Daphne was crazy about the Joffrey and that if he could take her to a performance he could make great inroads with her," Arpino said, laughing.

He said "Billboards" had taken people like Steve into a whole new dimension in their lives. The ballet took Arpino's vision of American dance and brought it to families everywhere.

"That's how it's going to grow," he said. "We have to make converts out of those macho males. It's my vision and I'm doing it."

Prong smashes, thrashes way into The Hurricane

From Staff Reports

Prong, the renowned metal band, will be jabbing into Lincoln this weekend with a thrashin' concert at The Hurricane on Sunday.

Riding the wake of its newest album, "Cleansing," Prong will be joined on its tour by two other national bands, Clutch and Drown.

Troy "Bubba" Way, the manager of The Hurricane, said, "It's gonna be a four-hour, moshing hellfest."

Tickets for the 19-and-over show will be \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. The doors open at 7:00 p.m. and

the opening bands will start around 9:00.

Smitty from the office of Epic Metal Marketing Productions said that Prong was in the second week of a 40- to 45-city tour.

"They've been to Lincoln before," Smitty said. "They've been across and up and down a few times."

He said that the tour had been going really fantastic so far.

"They've got enough exposure from touring with other artists and can bring in the bigger numbers now," he said.

CLASSIFIED INDEX

FOR SALE 000s

- 02 Appliances
- 05 Bicycles
- 10 Books
- 13 Clothing
- 16 Computers
- 20 Furniture
- 30 Jewelry
- 40 Misc. For Sale
- 45 Musical Instruments
- 46 Office Furniture
- 50 Pets
- 55 Photo Equipment
- 60 Sporting Goods
- 65 Stereo/TVs
- 70 Ticket Exchange
- 90 Vehicles

SERVICES 100s

- 100 Adoption
- 105 Alterations & Sewing
- 110 Automotive
- 115 Bicycle Service
- 120 Bridal
- 125 Catering
- 128 Child Care
- 130 Cleaning/Laundry
- 131 Cleaning/Households
- 135 Computer Service
- 140 Entertainment
- 145 Gift Ideas
- 148 Hairstyling
- 150 Health & Fitness
- 153 Insurance
- 155 Instruction/Tutoring
- 158 Job Placement
- 160 Lawn Care
- 165 Legal Services
- 173 Music Exchange
- 175 Photography

178 Pregnancy

- 180 Printing & Copying
- 182 Recycling
- 183 Religious
- 185 Rentals
- 188 Tanning
- 190 Tattooing
- 193 Travel
- 195 Typing & Resumes

NOTICES 200s

- 200 Rides
- 203 Spring Break Trips
- 205 Career Events
- 210 Announcements
- 215 Meetings
- 220 Greek Affairs
- 230 Student Government
- 240 Personals
- 245 Lost & Found
- 250 Wanted
- 260 Fundraising

JOBS 300s

- 300 Help Wanted
- 310 Child Care
- 320 Work Study Jobs
- 330 Summer Jobs
- 340 Internships

HOUSING 400s

- 400 Roommates
- 410 Housing Wanted
- 420 Rooms/Rent
- 430 Houses/Rent
- 440 Duplex/Rent
- 450 Apartments/Rent
- 460 Summer Housing
- 470 Mobile Homes/Rent
- 480 Vacation/Rent
- 490 Homes/Sale

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