

Stefan Duerst is a metalsmith and sculptor whose work is inspired by the natural environment and an interest in human behavior. Born and raised in Munich, Germany, Duerst completed an apprenticeship in metal design, fabrication, and blacksmithing along with completing his Masters in Metalwork with distinction. In between schooling, he worked under a Master Blacksmith whose ability to realize just about anything he imagined in metal greatly inspired Duerst.

The importance of achieving perfect harmony and minimalism within his sculptures is a guiding principle of Duerst's work and an emphasis on clear lines and harmonious proportions is a common trait within his sculptures. These themes represent transformation and possibilities in the material and to a greater extent, the human experience.

Duerst's work is on display at highly-regarded art galleries within Canada and North America.. His works can be found in a myriad of private, and corporate collections. Duerst currently lives and works outside Ontario with his two children.

Artist Statement

In my sculptural work, I aim to capture energy in motion - a frozen moment of time, which in German is known as an "Augenblick". As an artist, I am drawn to steel as a material for both its alchemical properties and the duality of its nature. It is heavy material and yet can be transformed into delicate, visual compositions filled with ethereal qualities. The flowing visual lines of my work reference the motions that can be found in water, wind, earth and fire - the same elements necessary in creating these sculptures. This reflection on the process of the elements is exhibiting a transformative and alchemical energy. By using this time-sensitive approach, my inspiration is often guided by spontaneous intuition that is directing decisions about form, lines and spatial vs. non-spatial relations.

Collections

- Foreign Affairs Department, Canada
- National Ornamental Metal Museum, Memphis, USA
- City of Kingston, Ontario, Canada
- Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario
- Private collections also featured in Germany, Switzerland, Canada and United States

Shows and Exhibits

Switzerland

- 2001 Gallerie Sager

Germany

- 2002 Walter-Trier-Galleries, Munich, BY
- 2002 BDS Personalkonzept, Munich, BY
- 2003 Senseffect studio, Cologne, NW
- 2003 Gallery Daniel Martinez, Munich, BY

United States

- 2001 National Ornamental Metal Museum, Memphis, TN
- 2003 Mine Metal Art Gallery, Williamsburg, NY
- 2012 SOFA, Chicago, IL
- 2018, 2016 San Juan Island Sculpture Park, WA
- 2020, 2019, 2018 Roan & Black contemporary gallery, Saugatuck, MI

Canada

- 2001 Mary E. Black Gallery, Halifax, NS
- 2004 verb Gallery, Kingston, ON
- 2005 John B. Aird Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2006 Object Toronto, Gladstone Hotel, ON
- 2008, 2006 IIDEX, Toronto, ON
- 2009 Public Art Commission, City of Kingston, ON
- 2009 Sandra Whitton Gallery, Kingston, ON
- 2012, 2008, 2005, 2004 Kiwi Gardens, Perth, ON
- 2012 Union Gallery, Kingston, ON
- 2012 Modern Fuel Gallery, Kingston, ON
- 2014 Verb gallery, Kingston, ON
- 2014 Wellington Street Art Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2015 L.A. Pai Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2016 Elora Sculpture Project, Elora, ON
- 2016 Canadian Society of Artists
- 2016 Godfrey Sculpture Park, Godfrey, ON
- 2016. 2015 OENO Gallery, Bloomfield, ON
- 2018, 2016, 2015 L.A. Pai Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2020, 2019, 2017, 2016 2015 Studio 22 Gallery, Kingston, ON