

Howe Hall

title

Ariel and Hub

artist

Seymour Lipton



Hub

About the Sculptures

Hub depicts orbital motion around a central, hollow turbine-like core. It revolves like a wheel within its own outer limits, with spokes stopping at the rim and a few breaking through. The relationships of the exterior and the interior surfaces may simultaneously represent a structure as large as the solar system or as private as one person's inward exploration. *Ariel* almost appears to lift off its base into flight. It is representative of the artist's later works characterized by a great sense of self-contentment, balance and stability. The title may refer to the twelfth of Uranus's known satellites, or to a mischievous spirit from Shakespeare's *The Tempest*.

Location

Howe Hall

Materials

**Nickel-Silver on
Monel metal**

Date

1974/1978

Size

36"H/38"H



Ariel

Art on Campus Program, University Museums
Iowa State University Ames, Iowa

About the Artist

Seymour Lipton was born in New York City in 1903. After graduating from Columbia University he began his professional career as a dentist, but was always interested in sculpture. In the early 1930s he began sculpting in wood and plaster. During the 1930s and 40s he participated in many art exhibits, both group and solo. He also taught at the New School for Social Research, New York. About 1950 he arrived at his mature artistic style of sculpture. Lipton uniformly worked in an abstract idiom, and he was committed to content. His work appears to be full of struggle and is often based on challenging and conflicting subjects. Although the themes are not always obvious, the sculptures can be emotionally disturbing.

Donor Statement

"Our interest in Seymour Lipton is a result of an opportunity to acquire a substantial part of the art in his estate. At that time we didn't know much about Lipton, but on evaluation we liked the work, its uniqueness both as to copies (there are none) and the uniqueness of construction.

Having some 70 pieces of sculpture we have been willing to share them with others. We have had *Scream* on long-term loan to the Brunner. *Scream* has since been returned to our collection. Six other museums also have Lipton sculptures on loan from us. President Jischke and Dean Melsa were particularly attracted to Lipton's work so we have designated four pieces as gifts to Iowa State for the ERTC buildings. I think that Lipton's work attracts the engineering mind.

The selection of the art we made is based on two things, our two eyes. We almost always agree."

James and Barbara Palmer, December 1999

Ariel and Hub

Additional information about the sculptures, other art on campus information sheets, and art on campus maps are available at the University Museums office, 290 Scheman Building, (2nd floor) 515/294/3342, or visit us online at <http://www.museums.iastate.edu/>

This information sheet is intended to be used in addition to viewing the art on campus. At no time should this sheet be used as a substitute for experiencing the art in person!