



Location

Gerdin Business Building, West Entrance

Materials

Bronze

Size

135 x 78 x 72 inches

Date

2005

About the Work of Art

Bill Barrett's sculptures belong to the classical tradition of American modernism, where clarity of form and firmness of structure are coupled with the harmonious juxtaposition of the curvilinear. He expresses a sculpture consciousness of organic forms, surfacing into elegant gestures a virtually liquid appearance, indicating a natural growth.

His work is sensual and intuitive, rather than ruled by an imposed logic. It floats through space, curving upward and outward, flirting with weight and gravity. Similar to sculpture based on European traditions, Barrett's work carries with it a memory of the archaic.

Philip Palmedo, author of the book *Bill Barrett, the Life of a Sculptor*, recognizes the influences that expressionism, Asian calligraphy, and most importantly, surrealism has had on Barrett's art. "Surrealism as access to the locus of memory and feeling, to the place where human inclination to sing and to move gracefully has its origins."

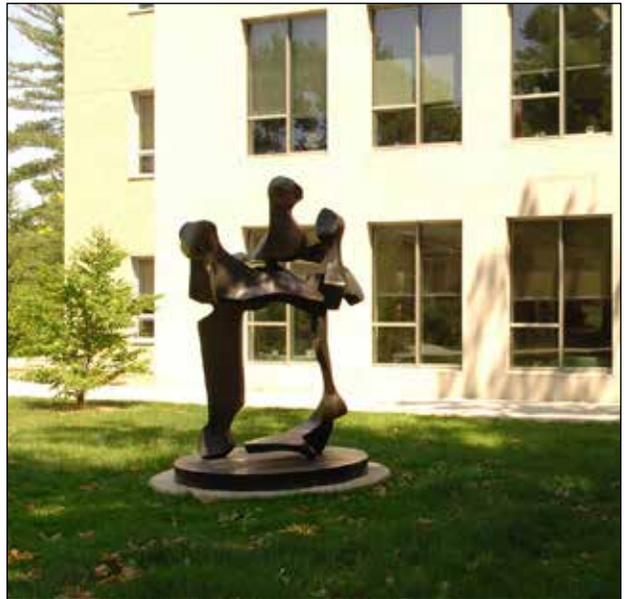
Bravo III, 2005 by Bill Barrett (American, b. 1934). Bronze. Located near the west entrance of the Gerdin Business Building. Purchased with funds from the College of Business. In the Art on Campus Collection, University Museums, Iowa State University. U2007.36

About the Artist

Bill Barrett (American b. 1934), one of today's foremost sculptors, was born in Los Angeles, CA. He earned a B.S. and M.S. in Design from the University of Michigan, and later an M.F.A. from the same institution. Since the mid 1960's, Barrett has been exhibiting his unique metal sculptures and abstract paintings in numerous solo and group exhibitions in such places as the United States, Switzerland, Bulgaria and Japan.

Barrett's sculptures of fabricated aluminum, bronze or steel address the interplay between positive and negative space with grace, elegance and exquisite balance. His work calls to mind the fluid effortlessness of calligraphic strokes and betray a positivism to which many viewers feel drawn. Others have said that Barrett's sculptures are distinctly American in their directness and lightness. His sophisticated constructions, through a delicate balance of form and content, transcend the starker aesthetics of minimalism with a warmth and humanity.

Barrett, who divides his time between New York City and Santa Fe, is represented in numerous private and public collections nationwide. Museum collections include the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, CT; the Museum of Fine Arts in Santa Fe, NM; the Harwood Museum, NM; the Fine Arts Museum of Oklahoma City, OK; the International Foundation Art Gallery, Sofia, Bulgaria; the Runnymede Sculpture Farm, CA. His sculptures have been installed on many university campuses and he is frequently called upon to produce large public sculpture by commission.



About the Art on Campus Collection

Iowa State University is home to one of the largest campus public art collections in the United States. Over 2,500 works of public art, including many by significant regional, national and international artists, are located across campus in buildings, courtyards, open spaces and offices. In 1982, the University Museums created the Art on Campus Collection that codifies acquisition, education and care and conservation of the campus public art collection.

From its founding, Iowa State has recognized the value of integrating art with the educational experience. From early founder Peter Melendy and first President Adonijah Welch's vision for central campus to President Raymond Hughes' embrace of public art to President James Hilton's construction of the Iowa State Center as a hub for cultural spaces, the arts have remained an integral part of Iowa State.

About University Museums

University Museums is a distinctive organization that encompasses two art museums (**Brunnier Art Museum** and **Christian Petersen Art Museum**), a National Historic Landmark historic home museum (**Farm House Museum**), a sculpture garden (**Anderson Sculpture Garden**), and one of the largest campus public art collections in the nation (**Art on Campus Collection**). University Museums brings world-class exhibitions with educational programming to Iowa State University, actively acquires works of art to add to the more than 30,000 permanent collection objects, conserves and preserves collections, conducts and publishes curatorial scholarship, and fosters student engagement.

University Museums, Iowa State University - 1805 Center Drive, 290 Scheman Bldg, Ames, IA 50011

515-294-3342 www.museums.iastate.edu



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

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