



CREATING THE MAINE SCULPTURE TRAIL

Legacy of the Schoodic International Sculpture Symposium

The Schoodic International Sculpture Symposium

*Ten Years That Changed a Landscape and Enriched Its
Communities Forever*

Thirty-four sculptures, created from 2007 to 2014 during the five sessions of the *Schoodic International Sculpture Symposium* and placed in communities throughout eastern Maine, are now part of a permanent outdoor public art collection, and part of Maine's artistic legacy.

Residents and visitors can visit each of these large-scale granite sculptures and the many communities they call home. We invite you to gather your family and friends, explore locations on the new Maine Sculpture Trail, and enjoy Maine's scenic roads on your way to each destination. The Symposium's contemporary sculpture trail is a unique national outdoor sculpture exhibition that spans over 270 miles.

Combined with the sculptures created by Sculpture St. John, a sister symposium in New Brunswick, the two trails, which meet in Calais, Maine, form a one-of-a-kind cultural experience and have become an icon of the heritage we share with our international neighbors.

www.mainesculpture.org

**MAINE SCULPTURE
TRAIL**

**Fold out map included in
printed copy.**

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*The Schoodic International Sculpture Symposium
and the communities, artists and creators
behind the Maine Sculpture Trail*

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COVER PHOTO: Sculpture: *Islands of Maine* by Jhon Gogaberishvili. Photo: Tilan Copson.

PAGE 2: Sculpture: *Dragon* by Teng Shan Chi, pictured in 2012 next to the Stillwater River before installation in Orono. Photo: Alan Stubbs.

*Dedicated to the volunteers who gave so much of their time to this project,
to the artists and assistants, and the many residents of the participating communities,
who are now the great stewards of this trail.*



TOUCHSTONE

*touch this stone
and touch time,
hundreds of millions
of years and beyond*

*touch this stone
and touch bedrock—
quartz, feldspar,
mica, hornblende—
molten mass,
flow direction,
solidification,
rift and grain*

*touch this granite
and touch spirit,
heart, sweat, ground—
of the people
of the dawn and
its shaper forever*

*touch this stone
and feel creation*

before the wind

*touch this stone
and be touched*

Patricia Smith Ranzoni
Poet Laureate, Bucksport, Maine

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Shin Ae Park, wife and sculpting assistant to Kyoung Uk Min, meticulously carves the strands of *Connection* at Fisher Field in 2014.



FOREWORD

This is a story of community accomplishment. Beyond the stunning photography showcasing each of the thirty-four sculptures created during the ten-year run of the Schoodic International Sculpture Symposium, this book also showcases the international community of artists who created these enduring works of public art. It reflects the tireless efforts of hundreds of volunteers who worked for over a decade to transform a dream into a hugely impactful and sustaining reality.

For me, organizing, funding and staging the first two sessions within the Schoodic Section of Acadia National Park was the most challenging thing I've ever done in my life. Working with the people, the finances, the technologies involved and the task of moving around huge slabs of granite was all-consuming. By the time we staged the last session in 2014, I felt like a combat veteran doing my fifth tour of duty.

The words and photos presented here offer insight into what this ten-year project accomplished and why, in hindsight, it was worth the considerable effort invested by those who made it happen. As important, I hope this book offers encouragement to other regions and communities that, with the blessings, experience, insights and advice of all involved in the SISS phenomenon in Downeast Maine, might consider pursuing a similar undertaking. When the dust settles—literally and figuratively—I expect those communities will be glad they did.

Jesse Salisbury, Founder and Art Director
Schoodic International Sculpture Symposium

INTRODUCTION

A million years from now, long after we humans have become extinct, the planet formerly known as Earth will sit like a quiet campground waiting for the arrival of adventuring astral archeologists in their intergalactic campers. On the landmass formerly known as Maine, large-scale granite sculptures will be discovered. Covered in lichen and moss, the massive monuments will reveal techniques, patterns and signs similar to those on other stone sculptures scattered around the planet. The intrepid campers will wonder at the power of such a beautiful corner of the continental landmass that it could attract and inspire artists to execute such wondrous works of stone.

—Amy Peters Woods, *Maine Boats, Homes & Harbors*, Winter 2011

The Schoodic International Sculpture Symposium brought together artists and communities to create the extensive hard stone sculpture collection now in place throughout Downeast Maine. Thirty-four unique works of public art created over the course of this project form the Maine Sculpture Trail, gracing rural, urban and seaside landscapes, where they will remain for centuries.

Sculptors from Maine, the United States and over forty other countries applied to participate in the Symposium, which began as an idea in 2004 and materialized in the first event in 2007. The artists who were chosen to fill one of the few spots in each of the five events, emerged from a juried selection process that was rigorous, yet enticing enough to attract an increasing number of applicants until the Symposium's culminating event in 2014 brought the phenomenon to a close.

The idea was an ambitious one. The selected sculptors would spend six weeks living together, realizing their visions while working in a public outdoor setting, to create large-scale sculptures from carefully



OPPOSITE LEFT: Valerian Jikia carves *Beyond the Horizon*, using a diamond saw in 2014. FAR RIGHT: A student finds a comfortable niche in *Sublime Portal: Whispering Stones*, to journal her experience at Fisher Field 2011.



Closing ceremony in 2011. Pictured are: *Nature's Grace*, *Warm Wind* and *The Window of the Sea Wind*.

OPPOSITE: A visitor admires *Nature's Grace* in 2011. The finished sculptures remained in place for the closing ceremony. In the foreground, *Sublime Portal: Whispering Stones* and *Gate of the Sun*.



selected and locally quarried blocks of granite and basalt. The thousands of Maine residents and visitors from out of state who came to see these sculptors work—from schoolchildren to their grandparents—were mesmerized, watching up-close, week after week, as each massive raw piece of stone assumed its final form.

When Jesse Salisbury presented his community-based art project to the public, Downeast Maine communities had very little public art, and the concept of a sculpture symposium was largely unknown. Abstract sculpture was uncommon in the region, and far less prevalent than the occasional courthouse lawn replications of Revolutionary and Civil War cannons and depictions of military heroes, some on horseback. The outpouring of enthusiasm and financial support fueled a movement as communities became excited to participate.

The trail is a surprising discovery for visitors—one that is a testimony to the deep roots of creativity that exist in Maine. Over its ten-year mission, the project created one of the farthest-reaching outdoor public granite sculpture collections in the world. This book forms a collection of stories about the diverse group of people who made it possible, composed in an effort to preserve the legacy of the creation of this great trail.