

# THE LEGACY OF RODIN SOCIETY NEW SLETTER

## M.L.SNOWDEN

### BONJOUR!

Bonjour! Welcome to the new year of The Legacy of Rodin Society Newsletter! We have a year filled with magnificent literature, documents, books, poetry, and details you have been waiting to see from the inner studio of Master Sculptress M.L. Snowden! What a gift it is that she has graced us with the opportunity to share with you, her valued collectors, the chance to experience pieces of her internal world, as well as those pieces that are part of our public history. As you may have already discovered, being a Snowden collector is far greater than owning a number of the most distinguished sculptures in the world; it is truly part of the making of history. This month we share with you the award given to Snowden in 1992. It was at the Rodin Sculpture Competition in Tokyo, Japan, that Snowden was awarded the Grand Prize for “Cataclasis Study”. You are the first collectors to view the actual award itself.

Twelve years later, in 2006, it was this masterpiece that was accepted into the Permanent Presidential Art Collection. And so with that we welcome you into this phenomenal time period of Art History, and thank you so much for walking with us.



***Cataclasis Study*** is sold out!

# THE LEGACY OF RODIN

## WRITE-UP FOR CATACLASIS STUDY

Cataclasis Study forms the central matrix of M.L. Snowden's landmark conception for the monumental forces and energies choreographed in the GEOLOGICAL COREIUM. Within the ever expanding chapter of the TERRESTRIAL FORUM, Cataclasis Study is followed by the full scale Cataclasis Latent, Active and Emerging Energy Fragments which join the geological explorations of Verdura (Organogenesis); Genesis (Orogenesis); Tectonics; Tectonics Element: Europe; the five works of the Amethyst Geode Arcelleon; Rhexodus (Rhexistasy) as well as the studio and monumental civic plaza scales of Igneous Shield Protectite.



Cataclasis Study is an exploration of the monumental forces and energies that shape rock and mold the Earth's surface. As a historic and seminal work, in 1992, Cataclasis Study won the world's greatest sculpture prize, The International Rodin Competition in Tokyo, Japan, hosted by the embassies of Italy, France, Sweden, Germany, the United States and thirty two other countries. Cataclasis Study was purchased for the permanent collection of the Hakone-Open-Air Museum in Japan, the World's foremost sculpture garden.

Cataclasis Study presents three essential states of energy: the Latent, the Active and the Emerging. M.L. Snowden, in concert with contemporary geological science, increasingly sees the Earth as a living organism with its rock and soil structures following the same aging patterns as biological life forms. Yet in Cataclasis Study, M.L. Snowden divests the sculpture of any particular traditional age depiction, evoking instead, deep seated energy positions communicated through massively drawn, naturally occurring figuration. Here in this small scale study, the macrocosm of planetary energy is conveyed in all its weight and grandeur in microcosm.

Cataclasis Study is an exploration that established for Snowden, a dialogue with the energies existing in the Earth materials of natural clay and bronze. A seminal sculpture, Cataclasis Study defined the sculptor's role as being part of an extended energy catalyst that realizes figuration as an inevitable result of manually compressing clay. From important roots in the Paris studios of Auguste Rodin and Antonin Mercié, Snowden brings to Cataclasis Study, the historic luminous platinum Fournier Patina and the touch of the Rodin tools that were used to shape the profound subtleties of the sculpture.

Such is the message of Cataclasis Study - within the geological fabric of the cosmos evoked in Snowden's artistic vision of the GEOLOGICAL CORIEUM, humankind reverberates and expresses the heart of energies that create our Earth and universe.



# THE LEGACY OF RODIN



## 第4回ロダン大賞展

The 4th Rodin Grand Prize Exhibition The Utsukushi-ga-hara Open-Air Museum

**Cover of the Award Winning Grand Prize:**  
Cataclasis Study from the International Rodin Competition



# THE LEGACY OF RODIN

critical scope

**Iva Lesser charts advances in the contemporary art map.**

American sculptor M. L. Snowden has been named Finalist and winner in the International Rodin Competition, considered the world's most prestigious sculpture prize. Snowden was awarded the Hakone Open-Air Museum Special Prize of the Rodin Competition, which invitational drew more than 500 noted professional sculptors from 38 countries outside Japan. The World Rodin Competition, the fourth held in eight years, is sponsored by the Hakone Open-Air Museum, which ranks amongst the foremost outdoor sculpture garden museums. The Hakone is located about 2,000 feet above sea level in the Japanese Alps.

The award winning sculpture, selected by an international panel of jurors, is entitled "Cataclasis." James A. Hagel, Snowden's representative best describes "Cataclasis" as a "dramatic exploration of the monumental and dynamic energies within the earth's crust which fracture rock and mold the earth's surface." The sculpture the jurors selected is drawn from a substantial monumental portfolio of many works which address the theme of titanic geological phenomena. The sculptor has been exploring the geological theme for over a decade. In "Cataclasis," abstraction, figuration, relief and in the round are consummately drawn against the austere geometry of contemporary architectural and landscape settings. The intricacy of the design required that the sculptor invent a new formulation of wax in order to make its lost wax bronze casting possible.

Noted art critic Hubert Lamberdin

## M.L. Snowden is Named Winner, International Rodin Competition

comments, "Cataclasis," like all of Snowden's stupendous geological works, is a complex sculpture of great technical brilliance and heroic consequence. Viewed in person, Snowden's sculpture seems to generate an almost tangible force field of magnetic energy which draws people to contemplate the work." International sculpture critic Remo Nevi describes Snowden as a "great modern master" and "Cataclasis" as "an incomparable sculpture which surpasses its art form and program to embrace late 20th century man's deep concern at finding himself vitally impacting and interacting with the state and preservation of the earth. The raw, free-form passages of clay explode into active and latent energies summarized in masterfully realized figuration. "Cataclasis" presents a kaleidoscopic frontal view



*In Japan's 4th International Rodin Sculpture Competition, masterfully realized, out-of-the-ordinary work did best. M. L. Snowden's "Cataclasis" drew top honors with the Hakone Open-Air Museum Special Prize; shown here, the sculptor's working model.*

from every angle, and explores man's influence on the future structure of this evolving planet." Dr. Louis Zona, Director and Curator of the Butler Institute of American Art, writes in summary, "The work is marvelous and the craftsmanship could not be higher." Snowden, who has been on the sculptural scene for twenty years, is the inheritor of the working methods of the Rodin and Mercié studios of Paris through the Swiss sculptor, Robert Eberhardt. Eberhardt, a contemporary colleague of Daniel Chester French and Saint Gaudens, was a professional in the Rodin studios at the turn of the century, and was a mentor to Snowden's father, noted sculptor

Write-up on  
Cataclasis Study  
inside Award book  
from International  
Rodin Competition

ARTE POLL



# THE LEGACY OF RODIN

## critical scope

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George H. Snowden, FAAR, NFS, NA. M. L. Snowden spent early years in the studios amongst the late George Snowden's sculptures, which are now historic landmarks throughout the United States. The artist's father was the sculptor of the main altar of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., the largest religious edifice in North America, and, as head of sculpture for Walt Disney for almost two decades, he created the major sculptural forms millions of visitors to Epcot and Disneyland enjoy each year. George Snowden is listed in American libraries in "Who Was Who in American Art."

Today, M. L. Snowden is the only living sculptor who holds certain 19th Century patination formulas, building methods and marble finishing techniques. The sculptor has enlarged and evolved these modalities to suit an independent and unique sculptural vision the sculptor has developed over two decades. This vision has been assisted through Snowden winning substantial post-graduate grants to European centers of study at the Vatican Collections in Rome, The Uffizi in Florence, Italy, and the Louvre in Paris. Along with numerous works public and private, Snowden is the sculptor of the lobby of the multi-million dollar Gersten Athletic Pavilion in Los Angeles. In addition, the Smithsonian

Institution in Washington D.C. held a retrospective of Snowden Studios' works entitled, "Sculpture in the Federal Triangle." In 1989, M. L. Snowden was awarded the inaugural Alex J. Ettl Grant, a top national competition and honor for all the works created over the sculptor's career and conferred "Noted Achievement in American Sculpture through a distinguished collection of Work," presented by the National Sculpture Society in New York City.

The International Rodin Competition not only enjoys a reputation as the greatest international sculptural distinction, but also conveys the richest prize, well in excess of two million yen, which has been awarded to Snowden. In addition, "Cataclasis" has been purchased by the Hakone Open-Air Museum and will become part of the Museum's permanent collection.

The sculpture is presently on display at the Utsukushi-Ga-Hara Open-Air Museum until October 31, 1992. The sculpture will then be moved to the Hakone for permanent installment and public display. A mural photographic exhibition detailing "Cataclasis"

is scheduled to be mounted at the Foire Internationale d'Art Contemporain at the Grand Palais, Champs Elysees in Paris, and will run October 24 through November 1.



*Latent and active energies in "Cataclasis" extrapolate multiple views and meanings.*



*"Cataclasis": a work of clarity, ambiguity, and supreme sculptural élan.*

Write-up on Cataclasis Study inside Award book from International Rodin Competition



# THE LEGACY OF RODIN

WE HOPE THAT YOU HAVE ENJOYED THIS MONTH'S LEGACY OF RODIN NEWSLETTER. WE LOOK FORWARD TO OFFERING YOU SOMETHING SPECIAL AGAIN NEXT MONTH!

