CORK MARCHESCHI

ARTIST’S STATEMENT 2010

ON PUBLIC ART

I have a very clear delineation between my fine art gallery work and my public work. I find different things in each activity that satisfy different desires. With my public artwork, I made a choice that I should do away with the notion of "a style" and give myself the freedom to respond to each unique situation in a manner that best resolves the potential of the sculpture. This has allowed me to expand my knowledge of materials and techniques. In the world of public art the artist must respond to the site and the community, doing this while attempting to hold on to a recognizable style didn't work for me. I am very happy to have my public work look like a one-man group show.

ON FINE ART

I take the practice of art casually serious, kinda like how you might love your child; an activity that is natural, rewarding and powerfully rooted in our most primitive nature.

My interest in light as a medium can easily be traced back to my childhood. As a child I was drawn to the glow of votive candles, Xmas lights and most mysteriously of all, the tips of cigarettes that would appear in theaters. I would get bored at my parents' choice of films and would turn around in my seat and look into the darkness of the loge section, where it was possible to smoke in the 1950s. Very slowly I would spot a pinpoint of dull orange light start to appear, over a second or two it would increase in intensity. The color would become a luminous crimson then recede back into darkness. I loved it!

I choose not to have the lights in my sculpture flash, blink, change patterns, or resemble the animated façade of a hotel in any way. The only element of change that I employ in my work is the gradual shift in intensity of the light. I am interested in the change in the light having a perceptual reference in nature, like sun up or sun down. Humans have a precognitive relationship to light, which makes it a perfect material to reach beyond language.

At 64 years old, I just want to make things that I think are wonderful. I may be working for an audience of one but if I can see it, hear it or feel it, I gotta make it.