

## UPCOMING SHOW

*Up to 10 works on show*  
September 1–29, 2007  
The Grenning Gallery  
17 Washington Street  
Sag Harbor, NY 11963  
(631) 725-8469

SHOW LOCATION SAG HARBOR, NY

# ROBERT BODEM

## Nature as teacher

**R**obert Bodem's sculptures can be seen as an attempt by the artist to uncover the raw human emotions that surface through relationships. Working directly from life, it is Bodem's chief concern to comment on the emotional conditions that, together, define what it is to be human.

"Nature is a great instructor and working from direct observations allows me to unlock some of her mysteries," says Bodem. "The forms that I am able to bring to the surface should clarify my interpretations of human relationships. To copy nature is an impossibility, but to seek an understanding of particular human emotion, to attempt to clarify emotional content through silent sculptural form, is."

Bodem hopes that by doing this, he can relay some general understanding of these issues to his viewers.

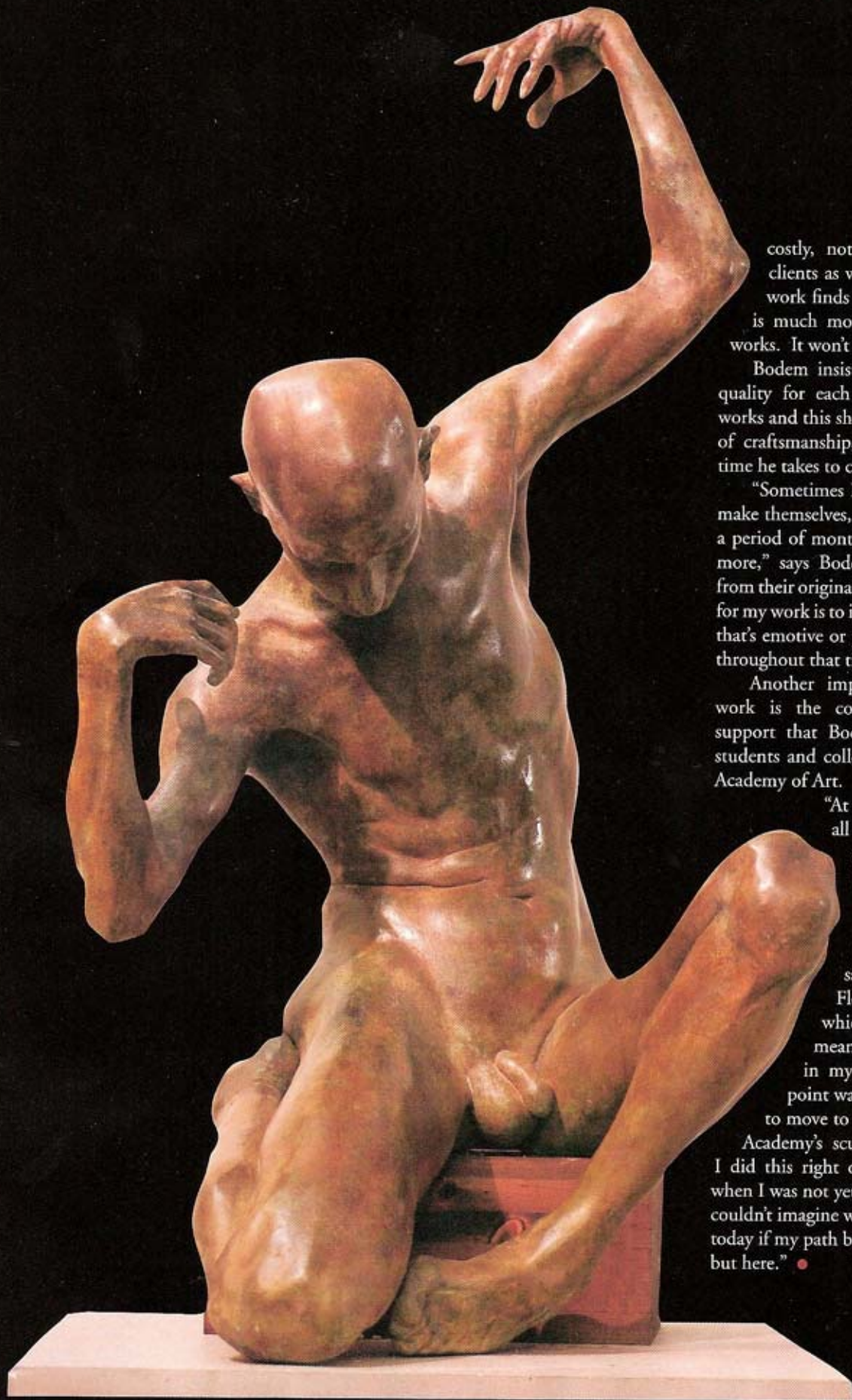
"I feel it is necessary to study life, drawing on the inspiration I receive from the subject in an attempt to make poetry of the form," says Bodem. "Ultimately, presenting the viewer with the most essential forms expanding our knowledge and ideas of how we interrelate to one another."

Bodem makes busts and life-sized sculptures but feels that it's in his large scale works where he is most comfortable with commenting on these human experiences. Both styles of work are on sale at the Grenning Gallery in Sag Harbor, New York and Ann Long Fine Art in Charleston, South Carolina.

"I prefer putting my energy into life-sized work," says Bodem. "It's obviously more demanding, time consuming and



LA MARIONETTA, BRONZE



PETROUSKA, BRONZE

costly, not only for me but for clients as well. Although once the work finds its final resting space, it is much more present than smaller works. It won't go unnoticed."

Bodem insists on maintaining high quality for each and every one of his works and this shows in not only his level of craftsmanship, but also through the time he takes to complete each sculpture.

"Sometimes I say that my sculptures make themselves, since they develop over a period of months, if not half a year or more," says Bodem. "They can change from their original intent. The inspiration for my work is to improve it daily, whether that's emotive or physically, if I can do it throughout that time, I am satisfied."

Another important aspect of this work is the continual feedback and support that Bodem receives from his students and colleagues at The Florence Academy of Art.

"At this point, I could thank all my current and former students who, through my observations, have taught me more than I could ever have imagined," says Bodem. "And the Florence Academy of Art, which has given me the means to succeed and/or fail in my studio. The turning point was based on my decision to move to Florence and begin the Academy's sculpture program, since I did this right out of graduate school when I was not yet a professional artist. I couldn't imagine what I would be making today if my path brought me to anywhere but here." ●



SELF-PORTRAIT, BRONZE



REQUIEM, BRONZE



FROM LEFT: THE JESTER, BRONZE, 22 X 10 X 10," ANYAN, BRONZE, 23 1/2 X 10 X 10", RAMIRO, 15 X 13 X 6 1/2"



AWAKENING, BRONZE



ROBERT BODEM POSES WITH THE MAQUETTE OF HIS SCULPTURE, LA MARIONETTA.