Gar Waterman: Feral Seed

Sculptor Gar Waterman Installs New Work on Dartmouth’s Campus

Hanover, N.H.—September 15, 2014—A member of Dartmouth’s Class of 1978, Gar Waterman is best known for his meticulously hand-crafted sculptures and large-scale public art projects that take their inspiration from natural forms, such as plants, insects, shells, fish, and other marine creatures. The youngest son of the pioneering oceanographic filmmaker Stan Waterman, Class of 1946, the artist grew up exploring the Maine coast and the barrier reefs of the South Pacific as his father filmed National Geographic specials. This August, Waterman returned to his alma mater to install Feral Seed, a monumental bronze sculpture that was specially commissioned for the atrium of the Class of 1978 Life Sciences Center.

“Feral Seed is a wonderful addition to the distinguished collection of works of public art at Dartmouth College that enhance and enrich the environment in which we live, work, and study,” said Michael Taylor, Director of the Hood Museum of Art and Chair of Dartmouth’s Public Art Committee. “It was a great pleasure to work with Gar Waterman on this commission, and we are thrilled with the dynamic sculpture that he has made for the Class of 1978 Life Sciences Center.”

“The Feral Seed sculpture truly completes the Class of 1978 Life Sciences Center project,” said Professor Elizabeth Smith, Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences. “We are delighted with how well the sculpture works with the space, as well as with our teaching mission. The synthesis of nature and art that Gar so beautifully captures in this work is the perfect symbol for the development and growth of ideas that emerge from the teaching and research activities ongoing in the Life Sciences Center.”

As an aspiring sculptor searching for a pattern language of his own, Waterman was inspired by the extraordinary photography of Karl Blossfeldt, whose 1928 publication Urformen der kunst (Arforms in Nature) introduced new perspectives upon the beauty of bilateral symmetry in nature. Natural forms remain a mainstay of inspiration for Waterman’s work, and seeds hold a particular fascination, since they impart the exuberance of life as it germinates and takes root, opens and pushes out. “Many of my seed sculptures reflect this pivotal moment of life force,” Waterman stated recently, “as seeds split open and new life emerges. I call this particular
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sculpture *Feral Seed*, a nod to the inevitable supremacy of nature, despite mankind’s best efforts to tame her.”

As to its permanent home on Dartmouth’s campus, Waterman points out that this sculpture is “the fruit of a plant whose roots were nurtured in the Hop’s metal and wood shops when I was an undergrad at Dartmouth. It has been growing for some thirty-five years, and I am enormously grateful for the fertile ground that Dartmouth provided me and continues to provide for all its sons and daughters. I see this sculpture as a symbol of promise and beginnings for Dartmouth students as they pursue their studies at the Class of 1978 Life Sciences Center.”

A dedication ceremony and reception will take place on Friday, September 19, 2014, in the Class of 1978 Life Sciences Center. This event will begin at 4:30 pm, when Gar Waterman will talk about his work and creative vision for *Feral Seed*.

**About the Hood Museum of Art**
The mission of the Hood Museum of Art, as a teaching museum, is to create an ideal learning environment that fosters transformative encounters with works of art. This dynamic educational and cultural facility houses one of the oldest and largest college collections in the country, with more than 70,000 objects acquired since 1772. Among its most important works are six Assyrian stone reliefs that date from around 900 BCE. The collection also presents art from other ancient cultures, the Americas, Europe, Africa, Papua New Guinea, and many more regions of the world. The Hood seeks to inspire and educate through direct engagement with original works of art and offers access to the rich diversity of its collections through ongoing highlights displays, special exhibitions, an online collections database, and a wide array of programs and events.

**About Dartmouth**
Founded in 1769, Dartmouth is a member of the Ivy League and consistently ranks among the world’s greatest colleges and universities. Dartmouth has forged a singular identity for combining its deep commitment to outstanding undergraduate liberal arts and graduate and professional education with distinguished research and scholarship in the arts and sciences and its three leading professional schools—the Geisel School of Medicine, Thayer School of Engineering, and the Tuck School of Business.

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**Image caption:** Artist Gar Waterman unwraps his sculpture *Feral Seed* during its installation in the Class of 1978 Life Sciences Center on Dartmouth College’s campus. Photo by Alison Palizzolo.