

An Exclusive Magazine for Monterey Residents

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LIVING

Richard MacDonald

Preeminent Figurative Sculptor



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Cover photo by
Edrees Rohina



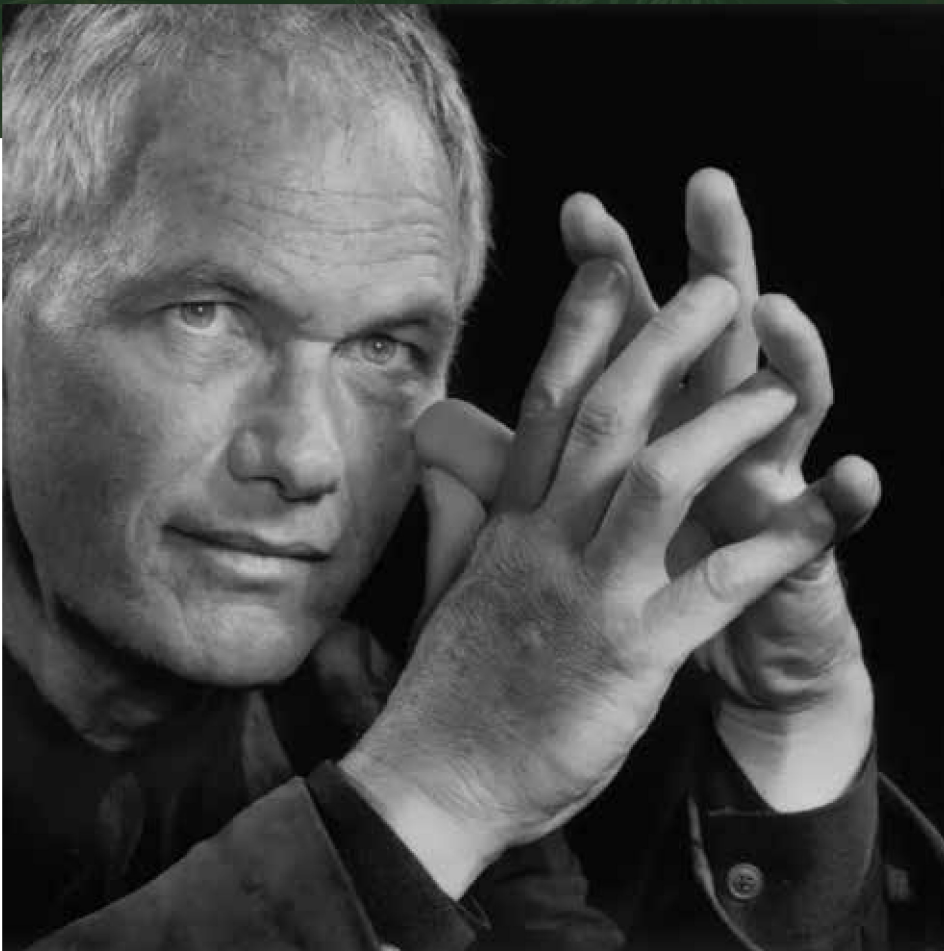
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Richard MacDonald

Preeminent Figurative Sculptor

By GEORGE DONALDSON

Photo by Bob Kolbrener



Anyone even slightly in tune with the Monterey Peninsula art community is familiar with the name Richard MacDonald. His eloquent and startlingly lifelike sculptures grace many spaces, private and public both here and all over the world. Despite the fact that he has achieved a level of professional success that affords him the ability to live just about anywhere he chooses, he has opted to make his home right here in Monterey. “I have travelled the world,” he says, “and I find the Monterey Peninsula, Carmel and Big Sur to be among the most beautiful environments I have seen. The weather is fantastic, and I find that the beach and the ocean soothe my soul and feed my creative energy.”

Richard grew up not far from here, near the Monterey Bay in Rio Del Mar. “I graduated from Watsonville High School (where I am a member of the Hall of Fame), The Art Institute of Miami, Los Angeles City College and went on to earn a degree with honors from the Art

Center College of Design in Pasadena. I've been awarded an honorary doctorate and a professorship from the Shanghai Institute of Art and have accumulated many awards and honors."

After completing his education, the artist embarked on his first job, moving to New York City to work as an illustrator. After a dozen years in that field, Richard shifted his medium from illustration and painting to sculptural monuments and came back to his home state. "I completed monumental bronzes for the States of Texas and Alaska," he recalls. During this period a tragedy struck that might have broken the spirit of a lesser talent. "During the completion of a monument for Alaska my studio was burned down by a major fire that destroyed everything," he recalls. "It basically wiped me out—I even lost my dog in the fire. I started over, and on October 4, 1988, started selling sculpture in the fine art industry. Within three and a half years, I was represented in approximately seventy galleries. The first in Carmel was the Gallery Americana on the corner of Sixth and Lincoln. I eventually purchased that building and it now houses Dawson Cole Fine Art, where my work is still represented."

When asked about what inspires his work, Richard says he has been influenced by some of the world's most revered artists, "Art history is a passion of mine. I have been inspired by Michelangelo, Bernini, Degas, Picasso and Rodin, to name a few." And he is also passionate about passing on his knowledge to those that follow in his footsteps, devoting time and energy to those who wish to learn from him. "I've been involved

in many local activities with children and education," he says. "I am presently working with the Arts Council and the local high schools, giving in-person talks and leading field trips to my art studio and foundry. We also have had many apprenticeships over the past thirty years. The careers of multiple artists in our community first had their genesis at my studio, most notably those of Paige Bradley, Steven Whyte, Gustavo Torres and many others. I look forward to our continued leadership and helping up-and-coming creative people."

"I have multiple philosophies that drive my passions, for instance: 'You can never give more than you get,' 'Leap at what you're after and it will appear,' 'The harder one works the luckier they become' and 'Share with others and make a difference in people's lives by bringing thought provoking beauty.' I often ask myself 'What would I attempt to do if you knew I could not fail?'"

Richard also firmly believes in the power of philanthropy. "Over the years we have donated to hundreds of charities. We've donated one million dollars to One Drop (onedrop.org) an international organization that brings access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene to people around the world, improving living conditions for more than 2.3 million people. We've also gifted hundreds of thousands of dollars to The Boys and Girls Clubs, Free Arts for Abused Children, Children's Cancer Association, food banks, dance, the arts, battered women, breast cancer and efforts to eradicate human trafficking, to name a few."

For a virtual tour of the sculptures of Richard MacDonald and to see video of the artist at work, visit carmel.dawsoncofineart.com



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