

## Ernest Shaw

### Born 1942, NYC, New York

Shaw has work in nearly 50 museum, university and public collections, and hundreds of private collections nationwide.

Although he began his career as a physician, psychiatrist and psychotherapist, Shaw always had a parallel interest in making art. After having a powerful dream about the iron age, he bought a welder and taught himself to weld and work with steel. A self-taught artist, he drew on his lifelong fascination with making objects out of any materials at hand and gained an empirical knowledge of steel by hammering steel plates and forming the punctured and ruptured sheets into closed steel Pods, his earliest series. He also began partially encasing chunks and slabs of bluestone in steel, and these pieces, along with the Pods comprised the work in his first show, two years later, at the gallery at SUNY Ulster. Work from these series was acquired by the Rockefeller collection, and were exhibited in group shows at the Storm King Art Center. The following year, having built cranes to allow the scale and direction of his pieces to grow exponentially, resulting in a sold-out exhibition at the Milwaukee Arts Center, and the acquisition of four of his pieces by the Bradley Sculpture Garden.

In the late 70s Shaw exhibited widely including at Sculpture Now, the NYC gallery exhibiting many of the leading artists who were working with large scale sculpture, and Tanglewood, in Lenox Mass. for the summer season. In 1976, Shaw left his career in psychiatry and devoted his life to making art, fabricating over 325 steel sculptures. In the late 1980's he turned his attention to working primarily with wood, and had an exhibition of his wooden sculpture, drawings and paintings on paper at the Williams College Art Museum. Shaw also created a number of monumental granite pieces around that time, including a 45-ton sculpture, SUMO, at the Grounds for Sculpture near Princeton.

Throughout his career Shaw devoted a large amount of his body of work to drawing and painting and has had several Museum shows of this aspect of his work. The Allentown Art Museum exhibited the *Hudson River Dream* series in 1980, and this past summer the Johnson Museum at Cornell included work from this series in an exhibition on the American landscape since WWII, called, *Shifting Ground*.

In 1990, Shaw returned to his psychotherapy/psychiatry practice, and in 1993 started the Center for Mind/Body Medicine in Kingston N.Y., teaching mindfulness practice. He has pursued the dual careers of art and medicine since then.

In November 2018 Shaw began to explore and master a new medium - Photography. As Lynn Woods wrote in a review of his first photography show at the Muroff Kotler Gallery of Visual Arts at SUNY, Stone Ridge this past November, "While the medium of photography might seem an odd choice for a sensitivity that revels in physicality and process ...and whose figurative imagery revolves around myth, the self and primal archetypes, Shaw's photographs explore the same terrain, representing a continuum, rather than a break from his earlier work."

This exhibit, *Marking Time*, explores his concerns with time, change and mutability, the nature of 'self' and shadow, mortality and our place in the order of things.