

## Catalogue of sculptures:

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Photography by: Gordon Becker

### **Red dancer:**

Date of completion 1994

Size: 185.5 x 78.7 x 102 cm.

Material: Red pine, Basswood and Yew wood

Brief description: Woman in full flight, defying gravity, determined through movement to convey the hidden language of dance.

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Photography by: Gordon Becker

### **White Dancer:**

Date of completion, 1995

Size: 132 x 50 x 90 cm.

Material: Red Pine, basswood and hawthorn

Brief description: The dancer struggles to rise against the weight of the mass of her hair, the symbol of the burdens of femininity. The hair is a crown of thorns, a dynamo of energy tying her to the earth. The costume is a binding wrap, constraining and at the same time exposing her body.

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Photography by: Gordon Becker

### **Black Dancer:**

Date of completion, 1995

Size: 101.7 x 71.2 x 175.3 cm.

Material: White pine, basswood and lightning-struck maple

Brief description: Inspired by the work of Louise LeCavalier, possibly the most energetic dancer ever to come out of Quebec, the dancer swoops and spirals, becoming the arrow of our longing to transcend the confines of gravity and the restrictions of gender. The hair, harvested from a tree that had been exploded by a lightning bolt links her to primal energies of our world.

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Photography by: Gordon Becker

**African Dancer:**

Date of completion: 1997

Size: 127 x 63.5 x 111.8 cm.

Material: White pine, white walnut and ebony

Brief description: Inspired by the African-turned-Canadian dancer Zelma Badu, the dancer turns her face to the blazing sun while her feet are rooted in her native soil. The ebony hair, made from billiard cue blanks, heavy, visually and physically, strikes towards the earth in a gesture of defiance at being stolen for games played in northern parlours.

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Photography by: Gordon Becker

**Spanish dancer:**

Date of completion: 1997

Size: 142.3 x 50.8 x 50.8 cm.

Material: Red Pine, basswood, rattan and granite stones

Brief description: I started this piece with no intention to create a portrayal of Pablo Picasso, but no matter what direction I took, the Picasso element kept emerging, so I surrendered to that energy. The stones, Pablo's gonads, are presented as the ten commandments of art.

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Photography by: Gordon Becker

**1956 in Hans Hoffman's Studio:**

Date of completion: 1995

Size: 71.9 x 147.3 x 63.5 cm.

Material: Select white pine

Brief description: Based on a photograph of Hans Hoffman lecturing students in 1956, the inspiration for this piece was a dimly-seen figure perched above the action, lying on a high beam at the back of the studio. I was struck by the individualism and defiance of the character ready to move beyond even the master of the avant-garde.

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Photography by: Gordon Becker

### **A dream of Flight:**

Date of completion: 1995

Size: 320 x 175 x 95 cm.

Materials: Basswood, red pine, oak and birch core plywood

Brief description: This piece grew directly from a dream. The sleeping figure is imbedded in the mundane, a platform constructed exactly like a cheap kitchen table. The wings, rising like architectural structures from either side begin with the Old Testament story of Jacob's ladder and lead through the tale of Daedalus to our own obsession with flight.

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Photography by: Gordon Becker

### **Japanese Dancer:**

Date of completion: 1999

Size: 142.2 x 57.2 x 150 cm.

Material: Select white pine, basswood and ebony

Brief description: Inspired by the work of Japanese-Canadian dancer Dennise Fujiwara this piece depicts the force and strength of the dancer in flight. The extreme care and attention to the craftsmanship throughout the entire piece are a tribute to the ancient tradition of Japanese attention to detail and perfection of craft. The ebony hair is designed to be seen from the back in the spiral pattern of an unfolding flower, a powerful part of Japanese iconography.

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Photography by: Gordon Becker

### **Blue Dancer:**

Date of completion: 2000

Size: 160 x 121.9 x 96.5 cm.

Material: Basswood, white pine and brambles

Brief description: Inspired by Montreal dancer Mariko Tanabe this piece brings the dancer's body to the point of impact with the ground. Her feet absorb the shock of landing while her body prepares to launch itself into the next explosion of energy and passion. The thorny brambles of her hair are expressive of the wild, ecstatic rage inherent in her dance.

Winner of: Gold Medallion 4<sup>th</sup> in Sculpture category at: Biennale Internazionale dell'Arte Contemporanea, Florence, Italy, 2003

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Photography by: Gordon Becker

### **Persephone's dance:**

Date of completion: 2001

Size: 86.4 x 86.4 x 61 cm.

Material: White maple, white pine and yew wood

Brief description: This piece was inspired by the myth of Persephone, the goddess of the cycle of the seasons and the underworld. The crossed wrists signify her abduction and captivity as a common female fate. The circular structure reflects the cycle of the seasons the dress being the dark night of winter, the energy of the dance itself being the seasons of renewal and growth and the golden hair the reward of the harvest.

Winner of Gold Medallion 4<sup>th</sup> in Sculpture category, Biennale Internazionale dell'Arte Contemporanea, Florence, Italy 2003

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Photography by: Gordon Becker

### **Dance of Generations:**

Date of completion: 2002

Size: 195.6 x 81.3 x 56 cm.

Material: White maple, white pine, oak, steel and limestone base

Brief description: I made this piece as a tribute to my mother shortly after her death. The double dance bar is the barricade over which she passed. Her left hand is held before her eye as a shield from what she must eventually look upon. While carving the face, the faces of my sister and my sister's daughter emerged from the wood, giving the piece its title.

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