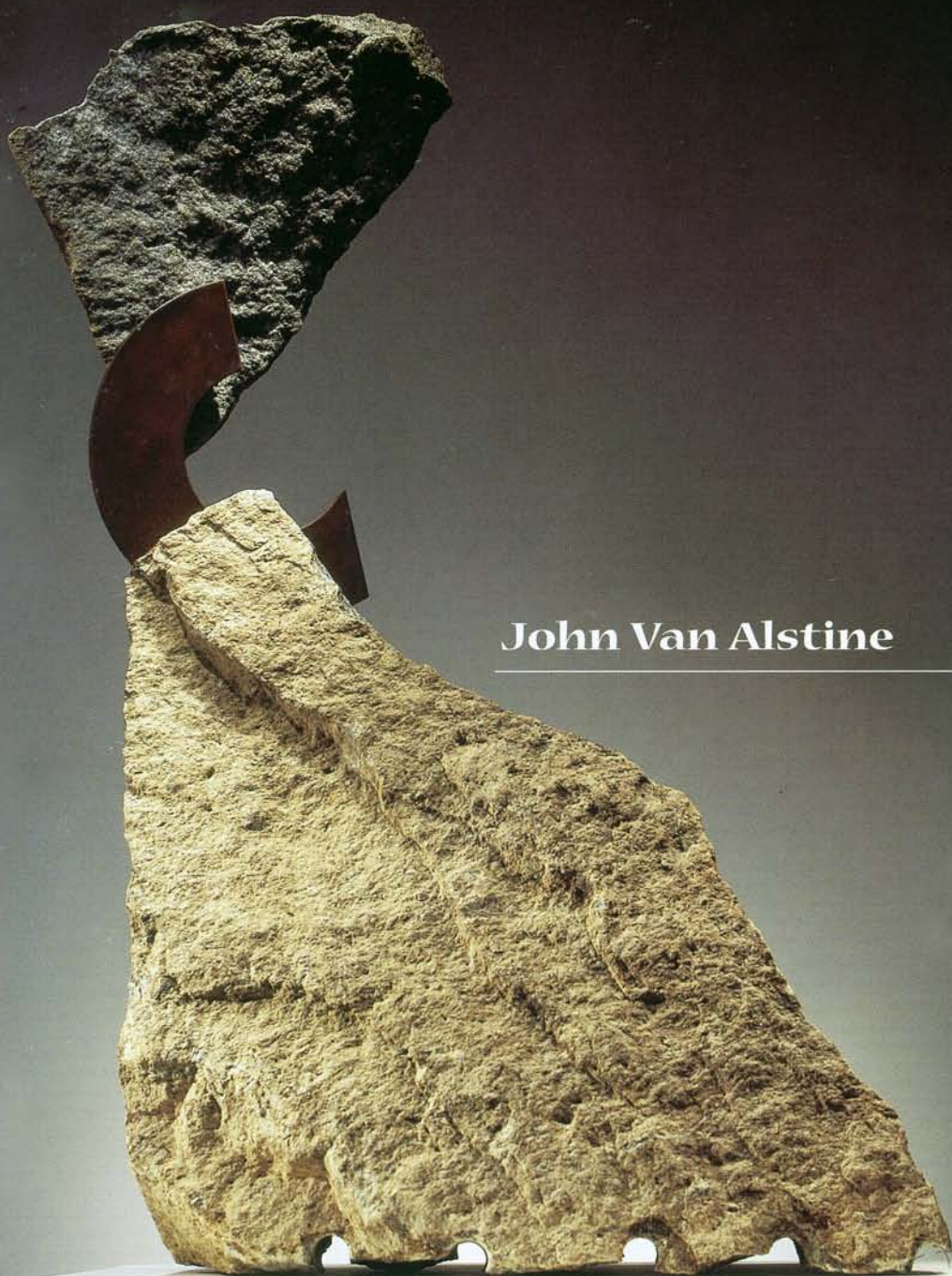


John Van Alstine

Mirror to the Mountains





John Van Alstine

Mountains have had a major impact on John Van Alstine's sculpture and drawing. Born and raised in Johnstown, NY, he spent much of his childhood within the Adirondack "Blue Line." There he internalized impressions of massive stone walls threading through the forest and dramatic granite outcroppings. Still early in his career he spent time in the stark "bones of the earth" landscape of Wyoming. In sharp contrast with the lush vegetation of the east, the mountains and high plains of the American west deepened his interest in stone. The worn, bare, western landscape heightened his appreciation of the land's physical structure and further influenced the content of his work over the next two and one-half decades.

Now living and working in the Adirondacks, the mountains continue to provide a vital source for Van Alstine's work. He absorbs evidence of glacial activity and fast-moving streams fed by melting snow pack. In this exhibition, we see the local history and culture of his mountain environment entering the creative mix. Design elements and functional concepts from the indigenous Adirondack guideboat, sleds, snow plows, and agricultural tools appear. Hunting and taxidermy (a local form of sculpture) have had an influence on some of the recent work. We are witnessing his cohesive vision evolving with new ideas.

Assembling *Mirror to the Mountains* it became clear that universal themes resonate through John Van Alstine's work.

Even his smaller works express a monumental sensibility that could be likened to visual haiku. The elements of weight, line, texture, and color are imbued with associations from the artist's experiences. As in haiku, Van Alstine distills his ideas from nature into dynamic, highly-selective (and often surprising) amalgams of disparate forms in space. His vision offers a fascinating exploration of the intricate balance between humankind and our mountain environment.

The Perrella Gallery is honored to present the first solo exhibition in Fulton County of this native son in conjunction with the recently-released book, *Bones of the Earth, Spirit of the Land, The Sculpture of John Van Alstine*. I express my gratitude to John and all others who helped make this exhibition possible.

Joel Chapin
Gallery Director





Sculpture and Drawing



Front Cover

UNDA 1995
granite/steel
47"h x 75"w x 24"d

CHALICE II 1995
bronze/aluminum/granite
12'5"h x 4'w x 3'd

Back Cover

UPSHOT III 2000
granite/steel
8'h x 17"w x 6"d

JUGGLER VI (Stone Heart) 2000
granite/bronze
22'h x 10"w x 5'd

Essay Panel

SLIPPERY SLOPE 1996
granite/bronze
72"h x 32"w x 46"d

Left Panel

RINGNECK 1998
granite/bronze
49'h x 33"w x 13"d

Center Panel (upper)

EAST RIVER PASSAGE 1988
pastel and charcoal
41'h x 29"w
Collection of the Adirondack Museum,
gift of Arlene and Pieter Kien

Center Panel (lower)

REDBALL WITH POINTS 1990
pastel and mixed
41'h x 29"w

Right Panel

HORNHAMMER 1998
pastel and mixed
22'h x 30"w

GREENHORN 1998
pastel and mixed
22'h x 30"w

John Van Alstine
Old Adirondack Lumber Co. Studios
Wells, New York 12190
(518) 924-9204
jva@superior.net

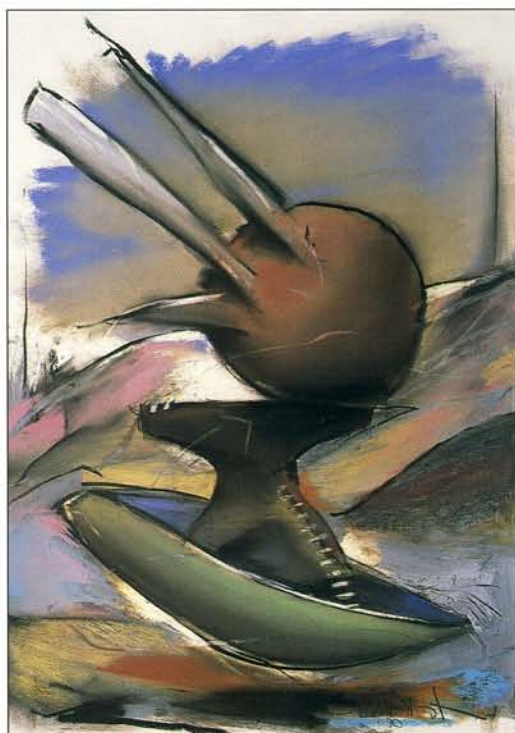
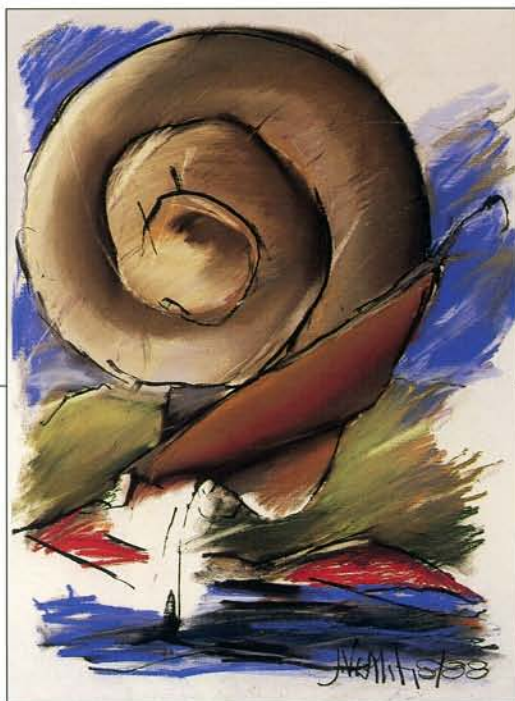
Exhibition in conjunction with the publication of
*Bones of the Earth, Spirit of the Land, The Sculpture of
John Van Alstine*; 2000, Editions Ariel, Washington, DC.

EDUCATION

Cornell University, College of Art and Architecture, Ithaca, NY
Cornell Graduate Fellowship in Sculpture; M.F.A. August 1976
Kent State University, Kent, OH; graduated cum laude, 1974,
with B.F.A. degree in Sculpture, Ceramics and Glass
Blossom Festival School, Cleveland—Kent, OH, 1973;
full scholarship in sculpture; worked with
Richard Stankiewicz and Richard Hunt
St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY; attended 1970-72

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS (SELECTED)

Adirondack Museum, Blue Mountain Lake, NY
Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD
Carnegie Institute of Art, Pittsburgh, PA
Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC
Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX
Delaware Museum of Art, Wilmington, DE
Denver Art Museum, Gift of List Foundation, NY, NY
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Levi Foundation, Baltimore, MD
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian
Institution, Washington, DC
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Houston, TX
Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University,
Ithaca, NY
National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, DC
Federal Reserve Board, Washington, DC
Newark Museum of Art, Newark, NJ
Museum of Modern Art, Gulbenkian Foundation,
Lisbon, Portugal
Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, AZ
The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC
U.S. State Department, Art in Embassies / Bolivian Embassy,
Washington, DC





September 8 through October 13, 2000

Perrella Gallery
Fulton-Montgomery Community College
Johnstown, New York 12095-3790

John Van Alstine



Mirror to the Mountains

Sculpture and Drawing

September 8 - October 13, 2000

Perrella Gallery

Fulton-Montgomery Community College

Gallery Hours: M-F 10 am-5 pm

Extended hours on Wednesdays
until 9 pm; or by appointment

Gala Opening Reception and Book Signing

September 8, 7-9 pm

Gallery Talk • 7:30 pm

Guests will receive a copy of John Van Alstine's new book,

Bones of the Earth, Spirit of the Land.

\$15 for individuals; \$25 for couples

Proceeds to benefit the College Foundation of FMCC

Reservations may be made by calling 518 762-4651 x3300

For further information call 518 762-4651 x3300 or x4111

This exhibition is made possible with support from the
New York State Council on the Arts Community Cultural Grant
program administered in Fulton, Montgomery and Schoharie
counties by Schoharie County Arts Council.

