

Large Hybrid Muse by Richard Hunt



Recognizing the contribution art has had in the Mayo Clinic environment since the original Mayo Clinic Building was finished in 1914, *Mayo Clinic Proceedings* features some of the numerous works of art displayed throughout the buildings and grounds on Mayo Clinic campuses as researched and interpreted by the author.



Richard Hunt was born on September 12, 1935, in Chicago, Illinois, and as a middle school-aged student, he

attended the Junior School of the Art Institute located there.¹⁻⁴ While there, he was tutored in sculpture under the direction of famed German sculptor, Nelli Bar.³ Inspired by an exhibit at the Chicago Institute of Art in 1953, he taught himself the skill of welding.¹ Hunt was the recipient of numerous prestigious fellowships and awards throughout his career and was the first African-American sculptor to solo exhibit at the New York Museum of Modern Art.¹

Of his metalwork, Hunt says: "... It is my intention to develop the kinds of forms nature might create if only heat and steel were available to her."¹ *Large Hybrid Muse*, (cast bronze 32 × 12 × 8 in), is a figure which fully captures that sentiment. It is as organic and captivating as the ocean tide or the flow of oozing lava, and hints at a humanoid figure in motion—Icarus-like—or perhaps an angel in flight. It also speaks of aged woodlands, such as the remnant of a tree trunk reeling from having been struck by lightning or the antlers of a wandering elk. It is alluring, mysterious, and inspiring.

Large Hybrid Muse is a gift from the artist in honor of Dr Richard F. Emslander and is located on the 18th floor of the Gonda Building on the Mayo Clinic campus in Rochester, Minnesota.

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1. SAAM Smithsonian American Art Museum. <http://americanart.si.edu/collections/search/artist/?id=2357>. Accessed April 29, 2016.
2. Richard Hunt (Sculptor) Wikipedia website. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Hunt_\(sculptor\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Hunt_(sculptor)). Accessed April 29, 2016.
3. Nelli Bar Wikipedia website. https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nelli_Bar. Accessed May 13, 2016.
4. <http://richardhunt.us/>. Accessed April 29, 2016.