

Victor, 2010

96"x30"x36"

steel



Eric H. Steele

After a successful career in law and technology consulting I have shifted my focus to creating abstract sculpture. I have studied metal sculpture, jewelry, blacksmithing and related metal arts at Evanston Art Center, Lill Street Art Center and Ox-Bow Summer Program of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

My current welded steel sculpture explores the interaction of man with the built and natural environments. My work references the vocabulary of natural disaster and the liminal space between devastation and hope. The human spirit endures and perseveres; man survives and rebuilds.

Man shapes and alters and is shaped and altered by the physical structures he has created. Fluid, conscious, idiosyncratic, organic life mingles with the inflexible, systematic, organized built environment. The human spirit interacts with those structures which in turn affect the expression of his spirit. Our urban totems reflect our dreams and environment of cities and machines just as ancient totems reflected beliefs, forests and wildlife.

Steel is a basic material of the engineered built environment. When heated steel melts and flows, it takes on a variety of surfaces, textures and shapes. Heat is one force of life and emotion; it devastates; it can be harnessed; it transforms; it can infuse hard reality with hope.

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