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Robert Fishko, *Director*

ALBERT WEIN
(1915-1991)

Albert Wein was born in 1915 in Bronx, NY. He was an American artist, the son of Hungarian and Romanian refugees, and is best known for his work in sculpture. He was a talent who explored the realms of both Classicalism and Modernism.

Albert was the only son of Elsa Wein, an accomplished portrait painter in her own right. Growing up in their artistic household, Albert was enrolled in drawing classes as early as 2 years old. When Albert was 12, after his family moved to Maryland, he began formal art lessons at the Maryland Institute. After the stock market crashed in 1929, however, his family had to return to the Bronx. Back in New York, he took classes at several esteemed institutions that shaped his artistic style under prestigious mentors: At the National Academy of Design, he studied under Ivan Olinsky, and at Beaux-Arts Institute, Hans Hofmann was his teacher and a great influence. Hofmann was a leader in the modernist movement, and Wein had often described his own practice as aiming, "to modernize and stylize the classical tradition."

In 1947, Wein won the Prix de Rome, given by the American Academy in Rome where he would study and go on to explore Europe for two years. During this time, he was exposed to Greek and Roman sculpture that depicted their histories and mythologies, which became evident influences in his sculptural style. He also learned about the works of William Shakespeare during his travels, which had a strong impact on the themes present in his work. His wife, Deyna Wein, said that the stories of romantic and family love by Shakespeare greatly inspired her husband.

Albert Wein was honored and awarded many times over, in fact he won almost every award a sculptor can. He was a fellow of the National Sculpture Society, many time recipient of the Henry Hering Medal, an Academician of the National Academy of Design, a Rockefeller Foundation grant winner for his study in Belliagio, Italy, and many more. Wein is perhaps best known for designing the 30ft tall relief sculpture, *The Treaty Tower*, 1975, of Libby Dam; he was selected for the commission from 240 artists who made proposals.

In 2008, The Boston Athenaeum presented *Albert Wein: An American Modernist*, a comprehensive exhibition of Wein's sculptures, paintings, and works on paper curated by David Dearing, the Susan Morse Hills Curator of Paintings and Sculpture, who also wrote the text for the hardcover book published in conjunction with the exhibition.

Wein's works can be found in the collection of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, D.C., The Museum of Fine Art of St. Petersburg, FL, and The Cummer Museum of Fine Arts and Gardens as well as in numerous private collection and public settings for which Wein designed monuments, including the cities of Baltimore (MD), Culver City (CA) and Washington (D.C.).