

Bryan Hunt (b. 1947)  
*Terre Haute*, 1982  
Cast bronze  
150 x 60 x 39 inches

In 1993 a generous donation of Bryan Hunt's *Terre Haute* was made to the Town of Vail's public art collection by the Rosenquist family. The late Chuck Rosenquist was an enthusiast and collector of modern art and served on the Art in Places Board while a resident of Vail. He also served on the board of Tucson Museum of Art. A member of the Art in Public Places Board wrote in a 1993 letter to the Town Council, "Not only has the donor offered the Town a major work of art by an internationally recognized artist, but he had presented the Town an opportunity to enhance the visual experience of its citizens and visitors....we are very lucky to have this opportunity."

Bryan Hunt's *Terre Haute*, named after the artist's hometown, is in Mayor's Park at the corner of Vail Road and West Meadow Drive. This bronze cast sculpture measures 150" x 60" x 39". An important modernist sculptor, Hunt was born in Indiana in 1947 and was greatly influenced by the sculptures by Willem de Kooning and the works of other Abstract Expressionist artists.

Hunt's sculptures from this period seem to defy gravity. He emphasizes the verticality of a landscape and utilizes the natural positive and negative spaces. In a 1987 review of Hunt's work in the *New York Times*, critic Michael Brenson writes "Bryan Hunt is a stylish and astute sculptor. His elegantly flowing bronzes, true to their material and engaged in the kind of dialogue with tradition that was unthinkable in the 60's and 70's, are hip enough to raise eyebrows and challenge some of the strictest modernist taboos." As a minimalist artist, Hunt emphasizes the simplified form and structure in his work. Compared to the work of Rodin's *Balzac*, Hunt's work from this period reflects the movement of waterfalls. As in *Terre Haute*, he renders the bronze in way that suggests the weightlessness of water.

In 1978, Hunt was included in the Guggenheim Museum's Young American Artist exhibition. His work was also included in the Whitney Museum Biennials in 1979, 81, and 85. In 1980 his work was featured in the Venice Biennial. His work is in the collections of major museums in the United States and in Europe, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, The Whitney Museum of Art, New York, Art Institute of Chicago, Dallas Museum of Art, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, among many others. At a 2003 sale at Christie's auction house a work 120 inches in height soared over the estimate of \$30-\$40,000 to sell for \$114,000.

- Molly Eppard, Art in Public Places Coordinator