

Curtis M. Kularski: Art Analysis Two



For this assignment I visited the Mint Museum of Art in Charlotte, NC. The piece I selected is Las Mesas #4, by Jesus Moroles. The piece is a sculpture created in 1982 from Texas Granite. It stands about 5 feet tall. I consider the piece to be abstract, because it doesn't resemble anything realistic. This piece could have various meanings; I interpret it as being a representation of the many steps toward obtaining most goals, the piece's large base representing the first step of getting started on accomplishing the goal. The piece is mostly lines, a lot of straight lines. The lines show rigidity to the piece. The shape is simple and squared; the piece rises from a rectangular base, then has an indentation about two inches deep, then going up there is a step back out. The pattern continues until a solid bar of granite is reached at the top. The piece has a very rough appearance because of the unfinished nature of the natural stone. The piece has the color of the Texas granite used to construct it. It is a very light pink color, almost white. The color of the piece is irrelevant to its design. When viewed in person the rigidity of the piece is very apparent, because of the way it is displayed (on a pedestal) it can be seen as an overwhelming structure. For this piece the value must be determined by the viewer. I love this piece and see it as an indispensable object of inspiration. The content of the piece is abstract, and open to interpretation. For me the content is the struggles and achievability to obtaining goals in life. Because the piece is abstract the form and content have to be completely unified. Each component of the sculpture relates to a part of the content. The base correlates to declaring a life goal and taking the first step towards it, each of the indentions is another step towards accomplishing the goal. With the way the piece was displayed on its pedestal it represents all of the reasons why humans often fail to meet their goals. Humans see the goal as being somewhat unachievable because it is so high, or they are intimidated, as someone may be who observes this piece in person. The solid top of the piece is a plateau at the end of a life goal, for when the goal is finally achieved. The accomplisher of a goal often looks back at the steps taken in amazement. If the piece were able to be viewed downward from above, it may give the same reaction.

Jesus Moroles was born in Texas in 1950. He is a rock sculptor primarily, but has recently become an author. His book "Moroles: Granite Sculpture" will be released in August. Works like the one I selected are from his smaller scale works. After 1983 his focus became larger works, mostly for outdoor display. In 1995 he opened his own cultural center in New Mexico.