

## Malcolm Wright's sculptures in the limelight at gallery

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**BRATTLEBORO**; Petria Mitchell and Jim Giddings of Mitchell Giddings Fine Arts are celebrating their first anniversary at their Main Street location just as their September three-part exhibit featuring Malcolm Wright's sculptures, Sean Wright's black and white photographs and Petria Mitchell's oil paintings winds down.

Next to and down the stairs from Candle in the Night in Brattleboro, Mitchell and Giddings have created a space to bring good artists and good art clients together. What makes this space stand apart from other galleries is its fresh, clean look consisting of white, moveable walls capable of accommodating different types of exhibits, a feeling of spaciousness, and lots and lots of track lighting. The sparseness allows the exhibit-goer to focus on the art without distraction, not very common in many New England galleries that are oftentimes repurposed rooms of old houses and a bit more cramped.

Originally planned for September was Mitchell's solo exhibit, but when the opportunity arose to exhibit Malcolm's sculptures, who also happens to be her neighbor in Marlboro and friend, alongside his son Sean's black and white photographs she graciously and happily stepped aside and moved her solo exhibit to November.

Malcolm's has had a successful and celebrated career creating functional pottery that is widely collected and reflects his time in Japan. While there he studied ceramics and worked with Takashi Nakazato, a 12th generation potter, who Malcolm said had a profound influence on him. Following that tenet of minimalism, his sculptures are strong forms devoid of unnecessary extras, appealing to emotions differently from different angles and in different light. He said that for him sculpture is to not be able to predict what you'll find on the other side, or the emotional effect it has on the viewer over time. Each piece must change with each viewpoint.

These days Malcolm focuses less on function, but creates more sculpture in bronze, admiring its cool, hard and non-reflective surface. At Mitchell•Giddings his bronze and ceramic work is displayed on pedestals where the viewer can fully appreciate the balanced relationship of shape and form from every vantage point.

Malcolm is happy to be exhibiting at his friend's gallery in a town that has a deep foundation in the arts. He said that the gallery helps bring back to the Brattleboro's Gallery Walk what it was originally intended to do, bring art to the people. He plans to continue to shift his focus from functional ceramics to his work in bronze, admitting that it is still a learning curve for him. When asked what is the key to creating his pieces, he said it is the willingness to be able to make a disaster in the hopes that something good will come out of it.

Complementing Malcolm's sculptures are his son's nature-themed black and white photographs of gnarly tree roots and sunlit leaves, or of buildings characterized their age, all rich in depth and texture that comes with working directly in film. Also Mitchell's oil-painted landscapes in deep indigos and oranges grace the walls, sending one's imagination into the distance.

Mitchell and Gidding's vision of bringing high quality work to the community at large appears to be a success. They look for quality, innovative work to show in their gallery and presently have 22 artists that exhibit on a rotating schedule, so there is always something new and different to enjoy.

If you haven't checked it out yet, be sure to make it to Mitchell•Giddings Fine Arts Mitchell•Giddings Fine Arts, 183 Main St., Brattleboro by Sunday before the exhibit is taken down. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. For information, call 802-251-8290.

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