JOHN KEARNEY

cedarhurst
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

About the Artist
John Kearney (`Kär-ne)

John Kearney (Car-nee) is a Chicago sculptor who creates welded steel sculptures from steel automobile bumpers and in bronze. They are primarily animal and figurative forms and are both large and small scale. His works are in major museums and collections throughout the USA, including the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, the Detroit Children's Museum, Ulrich Museum of Wichita State University, Wichita, the Field Museum, Chicago, Illinois State Capitol Visitors Center, Springfield, Illinois, Cedarhurst Center for the Arts in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, the City of Chicago in Oz Park (the Tin Man, Cowardly Lion, Scarecrow and Dorothy and Toto), the Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee Wisconsin, the Fayetteville Youth Center, Fayetteville, Arkansas, Provincetown Art Association and Museum, Cape Cod, among others.

John Kearney was born in Omaha, Nebraska in 1924. He received his formal art training at famed Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan after serving four years in the Navy during World War II in the South Pacific. He received an Italian Government Grant in 1963-64, through the University per Stranieri, Perugia, Italy, a Fulbright Award to Italy in 1963-64, and was a visiting artist at the American Academy in Rome, in 1985, 1992, 1998, and 2003. He won the Wallace Truman Prize at the National Academy of Design in New York, in 1953 among other prizes. He has had numerous One Man exhibitions since

1951, in New York City at A.C.A. Gallery 1964 to 1979, and in 2003/04, the Berta Walker Gallery in Provincetown, Mass., 1992 to 2005, and in Rome and Venice, Italy, Chicago, Detroit, Wichita, Wellfleet, Mass., and others. He had a major retrospective at Cedarhurst Center for the Arts in Mt. Vernon, Illinois in 1994. He has exhibited in Group curated exhibitions in Rome, New York, Santo Domingo, Niamey, Nigeria, Indianapolis, St. Paul, Minnesota, Omaha, Nebraska, the Art Institute of Chicago, Taipei, Sarasota, Florida and others.

John Kearney was the co-founder of the Contemporary Art Workshop in Chicago in 1949. The Workshop was a highly regarded non-profit Chicago institution, exhibiting young emerging artists and providing affordable studio spaces for artists for 60 years. Hundreds of emerging artists had their first exhibitions at the Contemporary Art Workshop. He taught and lectured since 1950 and was the guiding spirit over all the years. The Workshop closed its unique operation in May 2009 with high praise from the art community and the public.
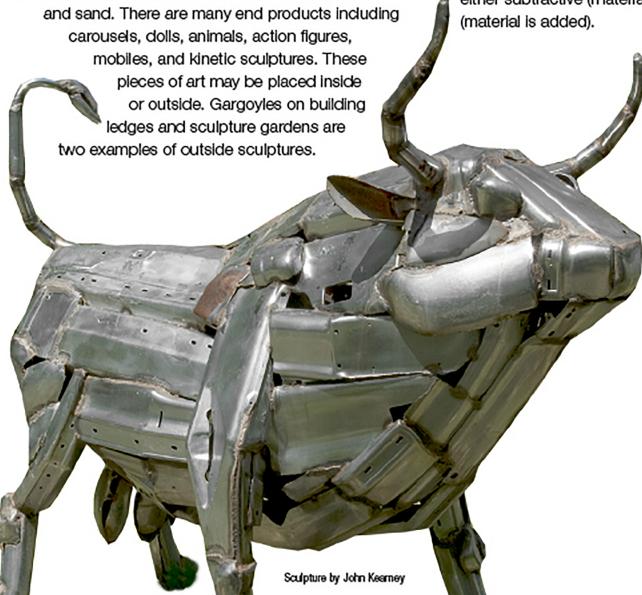
John Kearney lived in Rome for two years and traveled extensively in Europe. He has traveled to Egypt, the Middle East, China, Tibet, Southeast Asia and Central America. He lives in Chicago during winter and lives in Provincetown, Massachusetts from Mid-June to Mid-September.

What is sculpture?

Sculpture is the act and art of making three-dimensional works of art such as statues. A statue is an image such as a person or animal that is sculpted in a solid substance. The Statue of Liberty and Rodin's, *The Thinker,* are two well-known statues.

Sculptures may be carved, chiseled, modeled, cast, or constructed. They can be made of many different materials such as wood, stone, clay, metal, sand, ice, and even balloons. A person who creates sculpture is called a sculptor.

Sculptors use many different materials in their work such as stone, bronze, clay, iron, steel, paper, metal, marble, wood, soap, chocolate, butter, balloons, ice, snow, and sand. There are many end products including carousels, dolls, animals, action figures, mobiles, and kinetic sculptures. These pieces of art may be placed inside or outside. Gargoyles on building ledges and sculpture gardens are two examples of outside sculptures.

Sculptures are often thematic on topics such as wildlife, religion, tradition, or fun. Many people create sculptures from found objects such as recycled materials. New technologies are used to create interesting artwork that includes computers, holograms, and light.

Wonderful examples of sculpture can be found throughout the world. Sculpture has been an important part of culture since ancient times. Four processes are used in sculpture including subtraction, substitution, addition, and manipulation.

Basic Sculpture Techniques:

Sculptors primarily use four basic techniques. The processes are either subtractive (material is removed or carved out) or additive (material is added).

Carving: Carving involves cutting or chipping away a shape from a mass of stone, wood, or other hard material. Carving is a subtractive process whereby material is systematically eliminated from the outside in.

Casting: Sculptures that are cast are made from a material that is melted down—usually a metal—that is then poured into a mold. The mold is allowed to cool, thereby hardening the metal, usually bronze. Casting is an additive process.

Modeling: Modeled sculptures are created when a soft or malleable material (such as clay) is built up (sometimes over an armature) and shaped to create a form. Modeling is an additive process.

Assembling: Sculptors gather and join different materials to create an assembled sculpture. Assembling is an additive process. An example of assemblage is Leo Sewell's, Scottie Dog.

Sculpture by John Kearney

Sculpture by Leo Sewell

Make an animal sculpture with the stuff around you!

John Kearney found a bunch of car bumpers and they inspired him to create animals. Leo Sewell gathers "junk" to create his works of art.

Find items that can be repurposed for art materials: Cans, bottle tops, newspaper, odds & ends, coat hangers, Styrofoam (and Styrofoam containers), plastic containers, string/yarn, pie tins, old jewelry, aluminum foil, cardboard cartons.

Look at the items that you have gathered and start thinking about how you can put them together.

What makes up the body parts? Can a box be the body of a lion? Can a laundry detergent cap become its eyes? Get Creative!

What is the best way to put the items together? Glue? String? Nails? Sculptors also have to become engineers to figure out the best way to put things together.

An activity of the John R. and Eleanor R. Mitchell Foundation.

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Welcome to Cedarhurst

Nestled on a 90-acre site in southern Illinois, Cedarhurst celebrates the arts year-round with exciting visual and performing arts programs for the public. Explore rolling meadows and woods, home to Kuenz Sculpture Park, the museum's outdoor gallery with over 60 large-scale sculptures. Visit the Cedarhurst with art exhibitions in five galleries, including the Beck Family Center. Enjoy works in the permanent collection by Mary Cassatt, Maurice Prendergast, Childe Hassam and more,

part of the museum's American painting collection acquired by founders John R. and Eleanor R. Mitchell.

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. & Sunday, 1 - 5 p.m.

EDUCATION
Beck Family Center
Located inside the Mitchell Museum, the Beck Family Center is a hands-on environment providing endless opportunities for visitors to experience

the textures, color, and excitement of discovering art in the world around them. It is designed to encourage family members of all ages to discover and kindle their artistic interest.

Teacher Resources & School Programs
Cedarhurst provides opportunities for arts instruction through performing arts programs, in-school programs, student workshops, FREE tours of exhibitions and Kuenz Sculpture Park, and the Covington Resource Lending Library, offering materials for classroom instruction.

Family Events
Cedarhurst annually presents a series of family activities, which complement museum exhibitions. Conducted by the museum's Director of Education, Family Days and Story Times are held throughout the year. Check our website for specific dates.

Shrode Art Center
Cedarhurst classes and workshops allow children to have fun while exploring the arts. Programs include the popular Cedarhurst Summer Camp, ABC's and Art for toddlers and the afterschool program Totally Tubular!

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