

# About the Artist

Barry Woods Johnston began formal sculpture studies with Jose de Creef at the Art Students League in New York City. He then studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts for two years with sculptors Walter Hancock, Tony Greenwood, and Harry Rosen in Philadelphia. This was before being drafted into the U.S. Army during Vietnam, where he served in the U.S., Germany, and Vietnam as a Combat Artist in the field. Upon his return, he completed his Architectural Degree from Georgia (Tech) Institute of Technology in Atlanta, GA and worked for awhile in a large firm in New York. He chose to pursue his art with Scholarship Studies in New York at the National Academy of Design before moving to Europe where he studied figure drawing with Madame Simi, plaster casting with Enzo Cardini, and stone carving at Romanelli Studios in Florence, Italy.

Having completed his formal studies, Johnston returned to the U.S. and restored an abandoned townhouse near Dupont Circle in Washington, DC, building his first studio and formally beginning his career in 1974. By 1980, he had completed a commission for the acclaimed 19½ foot bronze *Wedlock* for the Lafayette Centre on 20th Street in downtown DC. Since then, he has completed numerous successful commissions. In 1989, Mr. Johnston established a studio in Baltimore equipped for large works, where he built live-in space for the students he has nurtured over the years.

Barry Johnston has been acknowledged by his peers with numerous awards throughout his prolific career, including the the *National Arts Club* "President's Award" and "Best in Show"; the *Allied Artists of America* "Leonard J. Meiselman Awards," "Domenico Facci Award", and "Members & Associates Awards"; the *Audubon Artists* "Gold Medal of Honor" and "Haim Cross Award"; and the *Salmagundi Club* "Elliot Liskin Awards", "Cassidy Memorial Award", "Graham Gallery Sculpture Awards", "Barrett Colea Awards", and the "Lindsay Morris Award"; also, the *Hudson Valley Art Association* 82nd Annual Juried "Michael Gressel Award" and their 83rd Annual "Award for Excellence"; plus several "National Sculpture Society Annual Awards" from the *National Sculpture Society*. [Note: Plurals indicate multiple awards.]

After spending time interviewing Johnston for an article, art critic Steve Mirabella wrote: "The sculpture of Barry Woods Johnston is destined to speak to future generations as powerfully as it does to his own. Having learned from the past, he emotionally absorbs the present and thinks towards the future. He is a modern

Renaissance man with talents ranging from architecture, classical piano, drawing, painting, composing, and philosophy to athletics. Invited to participate in the Berlin International Amateur Piano Competition in 2008 and again in 2010, and awarded 15 patents for his inventions; both artists and engineers have likened him to Leonardo da Vinci. His highly efficient [Johnston] heat engine invention may bring Combined Heat and Power, CHP generation of electricity [from various heat sources], into the mainstream.”

Johnston has recently written an autobiographical trilogy, *Renaissance: Healing the Great Divide*. The first book of the trilogy, *Seed*, tells the story of a young man’s struggle to make sense of the world’s injustices and to control his own emotions, while recovering from his experiences in Vietnam. He sows the seed by delving deep into his inner space, considering thoughts concerning his anger, his fears, and his destiny to work creating art that speaks to universal feelings and ideas. Second in his trilogy is *Flourish: Democracy or Hypocrisy*, where he wrestles with the political tragedies of the 1960’s and ’70’s, and the emerging misinformation and manipulations via mass media. He reveals his artistic process, as he resolves to express the chaotic influence of these forces on his psyche; and with faith, dives into a highly prolific career. The third book is *Harvest: Trials of a Modern Job* where he goes even deeper into his psyche, employing the biblical Book of Job, a tool Carl Jung used to bring his patients out of self-absorption. The artist finds healing by learning to refrain from ruminating about the past, and instead begins to take responsibility for who he is in the present.

Barry Woods Johnston brings to his sculptural work exceptional skills and a daring imagination, with subjects derived from religion, mythology, literature, and contemporary dilemmas. He is known for capturing energized form and anatomy in motion with robust, gravity-defying figures in unique modern compositions. He also brings a keen eye for realism and a humane depth of perception to his numerous portrait commissions. With a career spanning five decades, he is still moving forward with his engine invention, sculpture, music, and playing tennis. Johnston is an original creative force full of ardor and artistry.