

B O S T O N  
S C U L P T O R S  
G A L L E R Y

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## Joseph Wheelwright: *28 Moons*

February 11 – March 15, 2009

Opening Reception: Friday, February 13, 5 - 7 pm

SOWA First Friday reception: March 6, 5 – 8 pm

Gallery Hours: Wednesday – Sunday 12 – 6 pm

### **28-year Lunar Endeavor on View at Boston Sculptors Gallery, Beginning Feb. 11**

Artist Joseph Wheelwright explains:

“During the summer of 1980, I rose in the nights to create a series of conte crayon drawings of the moon, beginning with one that looked like the face our newborn daughter, May. I discerned 28 distinct shapes the moon can take. That summer I modeled a small sculptural portrait of the moon, “Sleeping Moon,” in wax, and cast it into bronze in 1981. I resolved to create a small moon each year for 28 years. The 28<sup>th</sup> moon, “Arc Moon,” was created in 2008, and here for the first time the entire group is exhibited. (The first 23 moons were exhibited at the DeCordova Museum in Lincoln, Massachusetts during the 2003-4 exhibition, *Joseph Wheelwright: Stone Heads and Tree Figures.*)

My enthrallment with the moon began with a misperception. As a very young boy, I could not understand why my siblings and I were not permitted to accompany our parents to the “moonvies,” a place I understood to be where adults sat in rows of chairs in a field to follow the progress of the moon. I began to watch the moon from my window and fell deeply in love with our ever constant, ever changing beacon, our celestial clock and night-light, the sweetest friend Earth ever had. I have tried never to fail Thoreau’s “test of innocence”: “to hear a taunt, and look out on this friendly moon pacing the heavens in a queen-like majesty, with the accustomed yearning.”

Wheelwright is perhaps best known in the Boston area for his large heads carved from boulders in the permanent collection at **DeCordova Museum**. Other public works may be seen at the Basilica at the **Charlestown Navy Yard** and in Cohasset at the **Sarah Slakenberg Sculpture Garden**. A monumental bronze moon, similar to the “Sleeping Moon” or the “Peabody Moon” presented here, will soon hover near the beloved iron clock at **Peabody Square** in Dorchester, joining the collection of the **City of Boston**.

Two other exhibitions of Wheelwright's sculptures are ongoing:

***“Tree Figures at Fruitlands”*** At Fruitlands Museum in Harvard, Massachusetts through October 2009: Wheelwright's towering sculptures from trees walk on the historic landscape, and in the Ell Gallery a retrospective of small works.

***“Sculptures by Joseph Wheelwright”*** At Oxenberg Fine Art in Miami, FL through March 2009: works in stone and bronze.

In New York, Wheelwright is represented by **Allan Stone Gallery**, 113 East 90<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10028, tel. 212-987-4997

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Also on view at Boston Sculptors Gallery: New work by Benjamin Cariens