

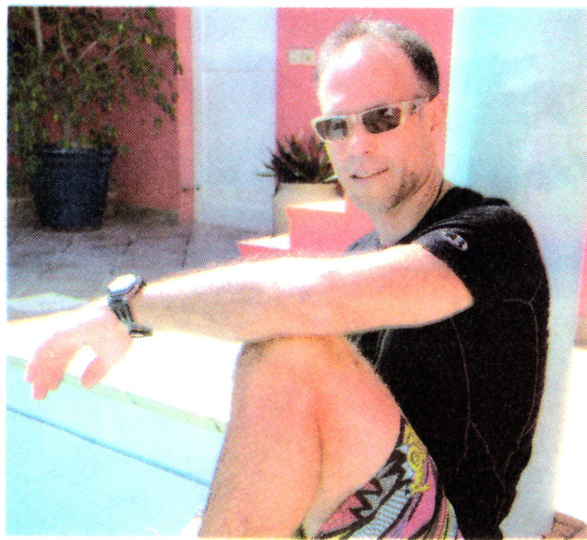
THE ABSTRACT FORMS OF DAVE STEVENSON

Sculptor and jeweler, New York-based artist Dave Stevenson (www.artinjection.com) is a master of abstract forms, from his large bronzes to sterling silver shapes that adorn the neck and wrist. Back in Saint Barth for his 10th anniversary exhibit at Les Artisans in Gustavia as of this week, Stevenson has two new pieces with strong visual impact.

“My two new sculptures are kindred spirits,” says Stevenson, who relates how he was working on a large piece that didn’t seem right so he snapped it in half for two smaller ones. “I completed them both last

spring over the course of several months,” he adds. When casting his bronzes, Stevenson uses Foundry Polich Tallix in Rock Tavern, NY, where celebrated artists Jeff Koons and Jasper Johns also work.

The first of the new sculptures is called Pegasus, which Stevenson feels has an equine feel about it, but as he admits: “The names come after the creation of the pieces... the creation itself is abstract.” The second new piece is different in that it is finished in bright glossy yellow paint. “It is a prototype called Crustacea because it has a shellfish feel but also has a



birdlike feel, with curves as if the are soaring in flight,” says Stevenson, who notes that the final version will be cast in limited-edition bronze or bright yellow aluminum: “I’m waiting to get feedback. My first piece in this series of sculptures 20 years ago was yellow as well, it just seemed to fit this time... it’s a demanding color that attracts your attention.”

Crustacea had a rough trip to the island: “After four days packing it with spray insulation foam got a hair-line crack in shipping,” Stevenson explains. “To fix it, I went to the local hardware store and got resin for four euros, then took it Garage Michel, a car body shop in St Jean Carénage who was nice enough to let me use his spray painting booth to repaint the sculpture and use glazing powder, a specialty product now for sale on the island, to fill in minute tin holes in the surface. I couldn’t have done it without him.”

The new jewelry in Stevenson’s collection includes Stag, a modular design based on a sterling silver pendant that was a commission for a bride. “I used the mold to create Stag later,” says Stevenson, who

likes to take one design and morph it into something new.


Stevenson recently made a pair of cufflinks that remind the artist of a motorcycle: “These were also a commission, and struggled for months to come up with a design and incorporate red and black stone, garnets and onyx. I don’t use stones a lot, only when people ask,” he notes. “These morphed into



a piece called Hornet I am showing here as well.”

A little something that is very appealing (and affordable) is a little silver drop: “I got out of bed at 4am and made this little critter than Jo-Anne at Les Artisans called Dune Bug,” says Stevenson. “She helps me realize my rough concepts.”


*By Ellen Lampert-Gréaux
Photo: Rosemond Gréaux*



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