



“Premonitions in Retrospect” by Strong-Cuevas

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by Pat Rogers

Walking into the “Premonitions in Retrospect” sculpture exhibition is like stumbling upon an organized archeological site. Significant pieces that can unlock insights into a cultural past of an unnamed civilization are there for the examining. It’s up to the viewer to contemplate their meanings and begin the discussion of possible interpretations.



“Strong-Cuevas: Premonitions in Retrospect” on view at Guild Hall.

“Premonitions in Retrospect” is a concise exhibition of sculpture by Elizabeth Strong-Cuevas. Set in the outdoor Frieda and Roy Furman Sculpture Garden at Guild Hall, five artworks beckon individually while feeling part of an integrated whole. Riveting in their strength and rendered with sure lines and defined shapes, Strong-Cuevas’s artworks channel ancient civilizations while remaining rooted in the modern. Steely surfaces or luxurious blacks create the physical fields of the substantive works on view.

The human element and negative space are important elements in all her works. So are psychological underpinnings exposing the dynamic that’s created when individual consciousness meet and conjoin.

In a lecture given at the Bruce Museum in 1985, Strong-Cuevas described her artwork this way:

“Communication through space and time is what I seek to express, linking the ideas of the past with those of the future. The human face is the symbol I use. Exploring forms to meet the idea, I find I have discovered all kinds of shapes, even a head that looks like a body... A face can be a universe. My media are bronze, aluminum and steel.”

Strong-Cuevas work is influenced by the ancient civilizations of the Egyptians, the Mayans and the Aztecs. Her sculptures have a presence that conjures impressions of iconic architecture and monuments to gods whose legacy was lost to time.

Following is a look at the exhibition:



Sculpture by Elizabeth Strong-Cuevas.



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“Mind’s Eye” by Strong-Cuevas, 2010.
Stainless steel with bronze eye,
fabricated 98 x 47 x 17 inches.

“Premonitions in Retrospect” at Guild Hall recalls a larger exhibition held in 1999 at Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, NJ. The solo exhibition was the first time an artist’s work was exhibited in the sculpture park’s Museum Building and Domestic Arts Building. The show featured around 40 large-scale sculptures in cast bronze, fabricated aluminum and steel. The exhibition title refers to an intuitive moment Strong-Cuevas had decades before the idea of studying art entered her mind.

BASIC FACTS: “Strong-Cuevas: Premonitions in Retrospect” has been extended again from Feb 24, 2013 and remains on view at Guild Hall at the outdoor Frieda and Roy Furman Sculpture Garden. Guild Hall is located at 158 Main Street, East Hampton, NY 11937. The exhibition was originally extended from September.

Additional artwork can be viewed at [Strong-Cuevas Sculpture](#).

Strong-Cuevas’s artwork is part of collections held by Grounds for Sculpture (Hamilton, NJ), Bruce

Museum (Greenwich, CT), Heckscher Museum of Art (Huntington, NY) and Guild Hall Museum (East Hampton, NY). Her art has been exhibited internationally with multiple solo shows held with Island Weiss Gallery in New York City, NY. Her studio is located in Amagansett, NY.

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