

LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL ART GALLERY

North Gallery

KOSSO ELOUL: Art in Public Places

September 11- October 14, 1984

"Conversation with the Artist"--Saturday, September 22nd at 3:00 P.M.

On view in the North Gallery is an exhibition of maquettes and photos documenting Kosso Eloul's commissions for public sculpture in Canada.

Born in 1920 in Mourom, Russia, Kosso moved with his family to Israel in 1924 where he studied and worked until 1938. He then moved to Chicago where he attended the Art Institute of Chicago under Frank Lloyd Wright, Zettler and Helen Gardener. During this period he also took night classes taught by Moholy Nagy at the Chicago School of Design. Following a tour of duty in the United States Navy during World War II, he returned to Palestine and fought in Israel's 1948 War of Independence. Kosso came to Los Angeles in the early 60's, exhibiting and working here for a number of years. In 1964 the artist was invited to Canada for the Montreal International Sculpture Symposium and has lived and worked in Toronto since 1969.

Kosso's smooth-surfaced, monolithic works seem to defy the laws of stability, creating visible tensions within rectangular blocks placed at angles that seem about to pull apart. The powerful forms balance precariously, and yet still achieve harmony.

Whether the viewer is observing the smaller indoor maquettes or the tremendous outdoor monoliths, Kosso is consistently dealing with several themes. "Art, as far as I am concerned, is the awakening of intuition". Working in wood, concrete and metals (Stelcoloy and aluminum) his explorations relate to energy and the forces that create opposition and harmony in life. His sculpture can be experienced as architecture, breaking the verticals of a cityscape or forming a gate or archway through which once can pass. The artist states, "I would like to provide my viewer with a sense of an active personal participation in the experience of leaving-upon passage -- one's 'old self' behind, as if by magic, symbolically.

The artist has exhibited at the National Art Centre, Ottawa; MacDonald Art Gallery, Queens Park, Toronto; York University, Toronto; the Art Gallery of Hamilton, Hamilton; The Royal Canadian Academy in conjunction with the '76 Olympic Games, Montreal; Pratt Institute, New York; the Albright Knox Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto; Cranbrook Academy Art Gallery, Detroit; Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh; Tel Aviv Museum, Tel Aviv; and the Musee d'Art Moderne, Paris. He has held solo exhibitions at the Art Gallery of Hamilton, Hamilton; Marlborough-Godard, Toronto; Arras Gallery, New York; O.K. Harris Gallery, New York; the Jewish Museum, New York; David Stuart Galleries, Los Angeles; Gallery Topazia Alliate in Rome, Italy and the Tel Aviv Museum, Tel Aviv.

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The illustrated catalog accompanying the exhibition was funded by the Ontario Arts Council.

The exhibition was made possible by a grant from the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture of Ontario, Canada, and the efforts of the Honorable Susan Fish, minister of Citizenship and Culture.

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The Municipal Art Gallery is a division of the Cultural Affairs Department of the City of Los Angeles.

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Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery
4804 Hollywood Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90027
Hours: 12:30 to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday
Admission: 50¢. Children under 12 admitted free
For further information call: (213) 485-4581
Tours: Offered daily at 2 p.m. or by appointment