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Live sculptural demonstration at Laguna Beach Gallery

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Ira Reines sculpting at Galerie Simard Bilodeau

Credit: Suzanne Chun

For the first time ever, American Master Sculptor Ira Reines demonstrated a large sculptural creation for an audience, and he did it twice. On the evenings of October 3 and 4 combined, Reines awed over 100 guests at **Galerie Simard Bilodeau** in Laguna Beach.

Guests enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in the elegant gallery, surrounded by exquisite fine art. Daniel Winn, curator for the artists represented by Galerie Simard Bilodeau, welcomed the crowd, and then Winn received special recognition himself.

State Senator Lou Correa presented Winn with a Resolution honoring him for his "impressive

record of career and civic achievements.” Winn, President and CEO of Masterpiece Publishing and board chair of the Academy of Fine Art Foundation, is a frequent volunteer and donor for numerous charitable organizations.

Winn introduced Ira Reines and talked about the artist’s work as Reines began working with clay. Winn encouraged guests to come closer as Reines began sculpting.

“I want to draw energy from you people and put it into this work,” Reines said.

In about 15 minutes, Reines had transformed the clay into a graceful female figure. His shapely creation possessed a serene beauty, a breathtaking peacefulness.

“This comes from my spirit,” Reines said. “She’s in a state of awakening. It’s part of my statement. She’s coming into being.”

When Reines’s work is finished, parts of it appear unfinished. “What I love about it is that it’s a fragment,” he said. “This is something special. This is full of life. What’s not there is very meaningful. You want to leave the picture unfinished.”

Reines described his feelings after finishing his sculpture. “I feel so full from it. I feel lifted. I feel euphoric. We’re wired to create,” he said.

Gallery owners Guy Simard and Eve-Marie Bilodeau were thrilled to host the event. “It was such a wonderful and unique experience to have a Master Sculptor such as Ira Reines, sculpt for our benefit,” said Simard. “Once you understand the talent and success he has, with placements in such prominent museums such as the Met in New York City, you understand the chance it is to see such a talented artist create in front of your eyes.”

Bilodeau said it was so exciting to see the reactions of their guests. “Everybody was filming with their phones, so much silence,” she said. “Some were even crying because it was so moving. Ira was explaining the thoughts that were driving his impulse of creation. I think I may talk for everybody when I say that we all felt shivers. We knew we were living an important moment right at this time. It was an immense pleasure for Guy and I to offer our guests such a wonderful experience.”

To schedule a private tour of Ira Reines’ work and the work of the other artists represented by Galerie Simard Bilodeau, please contact Cynthia@simardbilodeau.com