

An abstract sculpture made of large, rusted metal plates. The plates are arranged in a dynamic, overlapping fashion, creating a sense of movement and depth. The rust is a warm, golden-brown color, contrasting sharply with the clear blue sky in the background. The lighting is bright, casting sharp shadows and highlighting the textures of the metal.

# Poetic Space

Andrew C. Hellmund



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by

Andrew C. Hellmund

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Fine Arts

in

SCULPTURE

Department of Art and Design

University of Alberta

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## Artist Statement

My sculptures encourage the viewer to project their own experiences onto the work, to question the facts of visual existence with the engagement of movement, form, and texture. While I draw immense inspiration from Swing dance, Jazz music, Cubist forms, and Modernist Sculpture (including works by Peter Hide, Rob Willms, and Sir Anthony Caro), I ultimately create sculpture to explore ideas of perspective, exuberance and hope, movement and space. I believe that my work with recycled materials has the potential to uplift and inspire. My hope is that through these forms and vivid ideas, expressed in three-dimensional space, we are able to learn from, be inspired by, and begin to re-examine our existing ideals of spaces and community and how we inhabit them.

My work is strongly influenced by Lindy Hop or Swing dancing. The dance originated as a form of free expression by African Americans in the 1920s in New York City at the Savoy Ballroom, the only mixed dance hall at that time in the United States. It is this freedom in form and expression that draws my interest. Jazz music is integral to the experience and creates a visual poetry, which is only possible as a result of hearing the rhythm and music. The spaces and forms created by moving dancers, either in pairs or solo, fuel my sculptural strivings to express movement.

Swing dance exudes a spontaneity of expression that is similar to my intuitive sculpture process. In dance, as you get better you start to understand the relationships between the moves and which moves work more seamlessly together or create a reaction or response by following each other. Similarly in sculpture, there are visual principles and techniques to help the visual experience. By knowing this information, the improviser is able to create educated works.

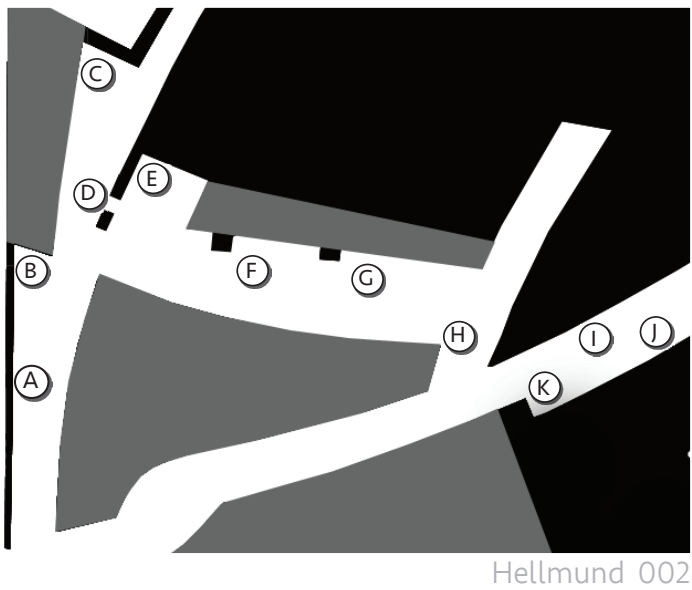
Just as each dance is original, with influences from your partner or response to what is happening on the floor, each sculpture responds to forms and connectivity seen between the dancing forms. A certain call and response happens in both creative practices.

There is historical precedent for exploring and expressing movement through art. I have been especially drawn to Edgar Degas's work—the emotion, energy and movement within his ballet dancers, expressed in his paintings. His sculptures capture a moment full of dynamic and powerful gesture, expressed through graceful and powerful forms.

**Andrew C. Hellmund**  
**Spring 2016**

# Poetic Space

**Andrew C. Hellmund** | University of Alberta | June 8 - July 31, 2016



- Ⓐ *Eclipse*, 76 x 50 x 27 inches
- Ⓑ *The Long View*, 10 x 5 x 4 feet
- Ⓒ *Ascendance*, 10.5 x 5 x 5 feet
- Ⓓ *Passage*, 89 x 48 x 39 inches
- Ⓔ *Less is Moore*, 60 x 24 x 16 inches
- Ⓕ *Voluminous*, 9.5 x 6.2 x 5.25 feet
- Ⓖ *Tanzen mit Picasso*, 8.5 x 4.5 x 3.4 feet
- Ⓗ *Cabriole*, 12.5 x 4 x 3 feet
- Ⓘ *Landing*, 28 x 18.5 x 14.5 inches
- ⓵ *Paso-Doble*, 25 x 9 x 11 inches
- Ⓚ *Skipper's Jig*, 36 x 16 x 16 inches

These sculptures were shown between June 8 - July 31, 2016, at the Telus Centre at the University of Alberta, in Edmonton, Alberta.







# Ascendance

2016 | Recycled Steel | 10.5 x 5 x 5 feet



Hellmund\_004



Hellmund\_005







# Cabriole

2015 - 2016 | Recycled Steel | 12.5 x 4 x 3 feet



Hellmund\_007



\* Hellmund\_008



Hellmund\_009

# Paso-Doble

2014 - 2016 | Recycled Steel | 25 x 9 x 11 inches



# Skipper's Jig

2016 | Recycled Steel | 36 x 16 x 16 inches



\* Hellmund\_010



Hellmund\_011





# Tanzen mit Picasso

2016 | Recycled Steel | 8.5 x 4.5 x 3.4 feet



Hellmund\_013





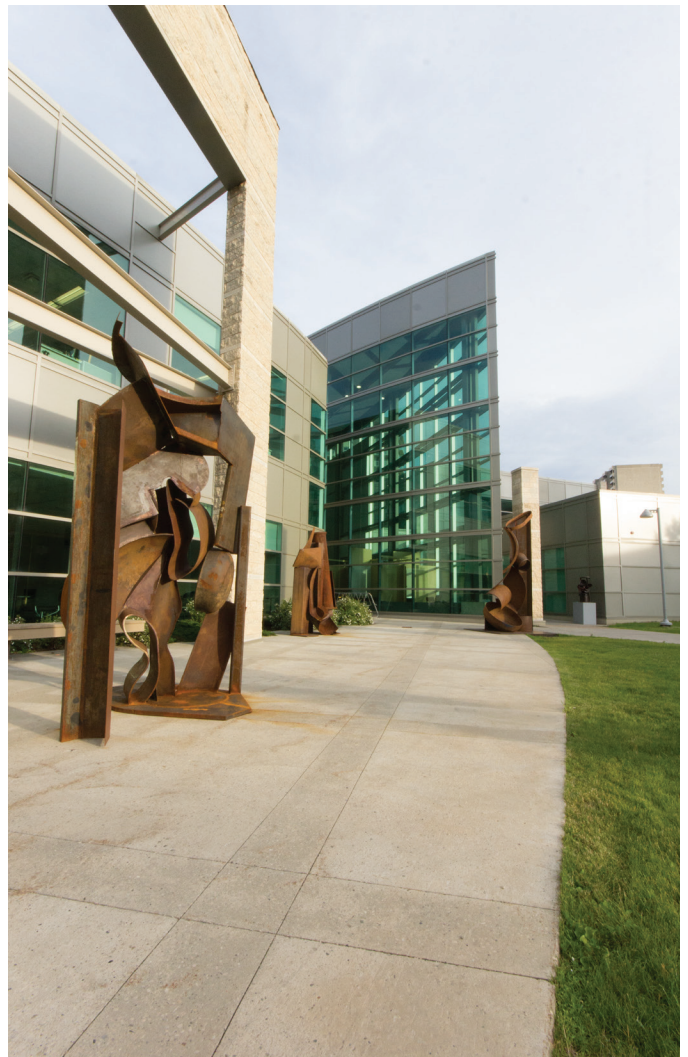


# Voluminous

2014 - 2016 | Recycled Steel | 9.5 x 6.2 x 5.25 feet



Hellmund\_015



Hellmund\_016





Hellmund\_017

# Less is Moore

2014 - 2016 | Recycled Steel | 60 x 24 x 16 inches



\* Hellmund\_018



Hellmund\_019



# Eclipse

2014 - 2016 | Recycled Steel | 71 x 42 x 27 inches



Hellmund\_020







# Passage

2015 | Recycled Steel | 89 x 48 x 39 inches



\* Hellmund\_022



\* Hellmund\_023







# The Long View

2015 | Recycled Steel | 10 x 5 x 4 feet



Hellmund\_025



Hellmund\_026





\* Hellmund\_027



Hellmund\_028

# Landing

2014 - 2015 | Recycled Steel | 28 x 18.5 x 14.5 inches





Hellmund\_029



Hellmund\_030 19





Hellmund\_031

## Acknowledgments

**Peter Hide**, for being willing to patiently share your knowledge of more than fifty years of art, sculpture, composition, history, and stories. It has been incredible being able to learn so many techniques both compositionally and technically that make the work possible!

Thank you for the technical assistance and friendship of Rob Willms, John McGie, Bianca Kahn, Royden Mills, Ted Aub, and Sam Castner. Without your knowledge and experience, I wouldn't be have gotten as far.

Committee Members, Cezary Gajewski, Steven Harris, and Dr. Mark Freeman for offering new perspectives and interesting questions.

Big shoutout to Greg Miller, Cameron West and Dr. Robert Driver from Structural Engineering for their donation of literally tons of steel.

Thank you, George Abraham, Lesley and David Adams, Nathan Barlow, Oliver Barlow, The Barlows, Gary and Benjamin Bertieg, Pam Brown, The Cawoods, Gabriella D'Angelo, Adrian Emberley, Mandy Forest-Chan, Ruth Anderson Donovan, Susan Forrest, Else-Jean Frederiksen, The Frederiksens, Jane Garritson, Georgina Haddenhorst, Kelly Johner, Patrick Kana, Agnieszka Koziarz, Robert Markey, Misa Nikolic, Meg Pohlod, Alicia Proudfoot, Lesley Pullishy, Amber Rosborough, Lynn Rubright, Miriam Rudolph, Nick Ruth, Jordan Rule, The Sands, and Deev Vanorbeek for your constant words of encouragement, teamwork, warm food, and friendship.

Extreme gratitude to Kathleen Berto, Dawn McLean and Lianne McTavish for all their hard work, answering questions, working through challenges, and doing the work! Thank you ever so much!

Thank you for the patience from: Facilities and Operations; Tom McLean and Wayne McCutcheon, University Architect Ben Louie, Engineer Dr. Carlos Cruz, and Todd Reader for sharing his knowledge of equipment and resources.

Thank you for kind donations from Edmonton Exchanger, Stanton Metals and Toll Industries.

It takes a village to [enable an artist], thank you so much to the many supporters and friends, businesses and collectors who have made this program possible! Thank you.

**My family**, for their constant support, using our cars to pick up steel, my parents for helping me install the first few shows and importantly for letting me turn the yard into a scrapyard, our barn and driveway into a shop and our house into a gallery! Thank you so much!

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