

Joe Smith is an artist who has been working in sculpture for about 30 years. He graduated from The Rhode Island School of Design in 1980 with a degree in Sculpture. His work has been exhibited in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, San Gimignano and Siena (Italy), Schiedam (The Netherlands). Reviews of his work have appeared in *Art Forum*, *Art in America*, *Chicago Tribune*, *The New York Times*, and other art publications. Currently teaching at Mount Holyoke College, Joe Smith lives and works in the Pioneer Valley, Massachusetts.

I am a materialist and I believe in the power of objects. But lately I have been thinking of my work as a way of constructing a space for meanings to occur. The particular meaning is unimportant to me. I am interested instead in the variety of meanings generated by my work. The sculpture I make may use domestic space, the space of wildness, illusionistic space, symbolic space, the space of a story or the space of remembrance and memory, or it may create a kind of space that makes me move differently when I approach it or move through it. The materials I use must exact a kinesthetic affect on me, through their intrinsic qualities and how I use them. That is, when I get it right, my sculpture does something. It produces an instability, and a necessary attention is brought to bear. My work activates spaces and possibly in that way it moves beyond me and my idiosyncratic methods, into the world.