

Body Of

Selected Works 1998 – 2022

Thomas McDonnell with Brock Enright

There are multiple casts of Brock's head and one or two of Tom's. Tom mentioned that he made the casts of Brock in New Jersey, though I think Brock lives in Upstate New York, so... Maybe that was where Brock's studio used to be? Brock is sort of a mysterious guy. Some of his work seems a little evil to me, but he seems good. There is so much hand wringing lately over good work made by evil artists, but what about the opposite? I like the idea that you could mess up (or not mess up) and make something evil because it implies that symbols are a powerful and mysterious business. It reminds me of when those young witches put a hex on the moon a few years ago and the older witches got mad. People were laughing at all of them, but I don't know, there's lots of funny stuff going on lately.

Like certain people we all know, these sculptures' faces don't reveal much. You look at them and before you know it you are narrativizing, ascribing motives, inventing thoughts, projecting. Tom and Brock are two people who might have faces like these. Or on second thought maybe not. Or on third thought, yes, they do have these types of faces because everyone has them – these faces which conceal, these faces whose inscrutable motions spur the stuff behind our own faces towards... what?

Here's something. If I were on a little boat in the ocean and I saw a dark shape in the water, I'd be moved. Of course the succeeding moments would be full of terribly clear thoughts and questions like: Is that an animal or a trick of light? If it is an animal is it a whale or a shark? Am I boring or delicious? Have I lived a full life? And on and on, boiling down always to the main question, What does it mean? But if I could go back, freeze time at the moment of initial apprehension, I'd find myself frozen in a state of pure creativity, before my imagination's sacred leap fell back into all those profane containers. What an enviable state! To be that thought, whose prolongation is the goal of most interesting art. Anyway, when you look at these faces don't be too eager to ask what they mean. Take off your jacket and stay.

SB

April 1st, 2022