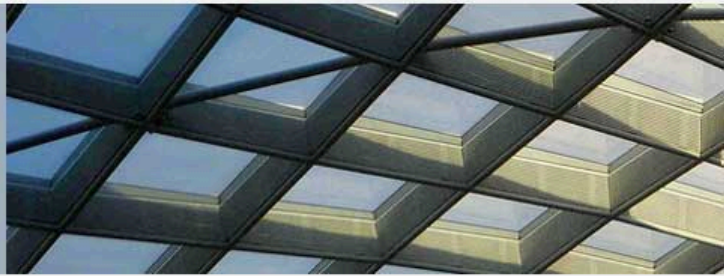


# face to face

A blog from the National Portrait Gallery  
Smithsonian Institution



SEARCH BLOG

Google Search

SUBSCRIBE



Subscribe to our RSS Feed

NPG ON THE WEB

[National Portrait Gallery website](#)

[NPG Portrait Search](#)



[NPG on Facebook](#)



[NPG on iTunes](#)



[NPG on YouTube](#)



[NPG on Twitter](#)



[NPG on Flickr](#)

CATEGORIES

[Biography](#)

[Books](#)

[Civil War 150](#)

[Events](#)

[Exhibitions](#)

[Film](#)

[News](#)

[Podcast](#)

[Portrait of an Artist](#)

[Staff Profiles](#)

ARCHIVES

[October 2015](#)

[September 2015](#)

[August 2015](#)

[July 2015](#)

[June 2015](#)

[May 2015](#)

[April 2015](#)

[« IDENTIFY: Martha McDonald](#) | [Main](#) | [Pop Quiz: Outstanding October](#) »

October 15, 2015

## Countdown to the American Portrait Gala: Meet Barton Rubenstein



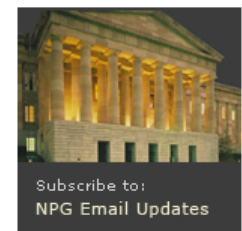
*“As an artist, I am moved by the possibility of making someone else’s life more meaningful, less stressful, or simply bringing out a smile. When I create art, I imagine each of these positive changes beginning a chain reaction of other positive human interactions. The idea of this brings me great pleasure and satisfaction.” - Barton Rubenstein*

Internationally recognized sculptor and public artist Barton Rubenstein has designed the award for the National Portrait Gallery’s American Portrait Gala 2015, which will take place one month from today on Nov. 15, 2015. The design is an androgynous profile made of stainless steel, so as not to represent any particular race or nationality. Rubenstein initially created it as a study for a now-completed monumental profile sculpture titled *Free Again*. In Rubenstein’s words, the inspiration for the artwork is the notion “that each of us is born into the world as a free person. After time, some of us become victims of religious persecution and other abuses and seek asylum in the free world, basically the democratic countries.” The artist has plans to display the large sculpture in different democracies around the world. In September, the city of Jerusalem accepted the proposal and plans to display the sculpture in a prominent public space at the center of the city. Rubenstein is also considering Sydney and London as potential sites.

ABOUT

[About this Blog](#)

[Email Me](#)



[March 2015](#)

[February 2015](#)

[January 2015](#)

[More...](#)

---

#### RECENT COMMENTS

[Hoffmankate3](#) on ["A bit of a professional"— Sylvia Plath](#)

[MillerHavens](#) on [Pedro Martinez: Hall of Famer](#)

[Brykrnyon51](#) on [Pedro Martinez: Hall of Famer](#)

[Albert Kaplan](#) on [Lincoln in 3-D](#)

[Susan Bainbridge](#) on [Portrait of an Artist: Jill Wissmiller](#)

[Jean Meaney](#) on [Herein Hangs a Tale: The Bache Silhouette Book](#)

[jasapembuatanwebsite](#) on [Elvis Presley, Born 74 Years Ago Today](#)

[Magneticdynamo](#) on [Pop Quiz trivia event — Curator's Choice!](#)

[National Portrait Gallery](#) on [Nelson Shanks's \*The Four Justices\*](#)

[CarolMossEsq](#) on [Nelson Shanks's \*The Four Justices\*](#)

---

#### FEATURED IMAGE

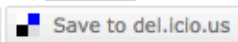
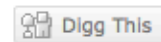


Canopy, Kogod Courtyard. Banner image from our [Flickr photo pool](#). Thanks to Maxwell S. Leung, a.k.a. [disoriented1969](#)

Rubenstein, whose academic background is in neuroscience, is fascinated by the effects of light, water, kinetics, and suspension and often incorporates one or more of these elements in his work. Typically working in stainless steel or bronze, his dynamic sculptures play with illusion and perception, artistic interests that coincide with his academic training, including a BS in physics with a minor in fine arts from Haverford College and a Master's degree in computer science and PhD in neuroscience from Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel. Rubenstein's work is included in public and private collections internationally. He credits his mother, Daryl Reich Rubenstein, who was an art historian and Smithsonian curator, for developing his eye through continuous exposure to art as a child. In addition, his father, Lee Rubenstein, taught him to work with his hands, which has provided Rubenstein with the skills to fabricate most of his artwork.

---

Posted at 12:56 PM | [Permalink](#)



---

#### Comments

You can follow this conversation by subscribing to the [comment feed](#) for this post.

---

#### Post a comment

Comments are moderated, and will not appear until the author has approved them.

Sign in with [Typepad](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Google+](#) and [more...](#)