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REGIONAL REVIEWS

Rhode Island/Vermont

The Carving Studio and Sculpture Center Gallery/West Rutland, VT

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ERIC DAVID LAXMAN: SCULPTURE



Eric David Laxman, *Striding Figure*, marble, steel, bronze, 60 x 18 x 15", 2003.

Ascending Figure, a fragile graphite drawing on paper, and *Defining Boundaries*, a human-scale sculpture of granite and steel, compete for attention at the entrance to an exhibit of work by Eric Laxman. In *Ascending Figure*, he defines volumes of curvaceous and angular form opening into the surrounding space in a manner reminiscent of Giacometti. Heavy steel bands follow the contours of the granite forms assembled to construct *Defining Boundaries*: A line of steel becomes a ridged spine, embedded between shoulders of rock. While the inspiration for this work comes from the human figure, the work is not figurative. Laxman's art is informed by cubism, but it is not derivative.

Fusion, a mixed-media drawing and a more organic work, shows forms compressing and opening, implying the weight of shapes and interrelationships in space. *The Inner I*, a composition of rose granite and steel construction, emphasizes these sculptural concerns. Natural texture, cross-hatching, and carving enhance the granite surface. The table-high steel tripod base offers the illusion of being formed into its curved shape by the natural heaviness of granite rather than by the design of the artist.

The base is also significant in *Striding Figure*: a 10-inch-high classically inspired marble torso, drawn together by steel and installed atop a two-wheeled base. The little figure, with a thigh thrust forward, appears about to propel the entire sculpture forward. *Balancing at High Speed* is an abstract and powerful variation on the same theme. Three granite forms, threaded together with steel emerging from the base, rest alight a wheeled construction—again, the suggested potential for movement. Laxman moves his heavy materials beyond their static realm. *Charlet Davenport*



Eric David Laxman, *Defining Boundaries*, granite and steel, 78 x 18 x 18", 2004