

GIB SINGLETON

(1935-2014)



Gib Singleton is considered the leading Western and Biblical bronze sculptor of the late 20th and early 21st century in America – and arguably, the world.

Classically trained, he is considered to be a modern master of bronze sculpture. His work is represented in major museums from the Museum of Modern Art in New York to the Vatican Museum in Rome, as well as in the homes and offices of luminaries from actors to politicians to spiritual leaders.

‘I think 500 years from now, art historians will talk about Gib like they talk today about Rembrandt or Van Gogh or Michelangelo.’ - Paul Zueger

THE EARLY YEARS

Gib knew from his earliest days that he would be an artist, despite hurdles of growing up as the son of a poor Cherokee sharecropper from Missouri. At the age of 3 Singleton made toys out of mud and drew figures in the dirt. By 16, Singleton became fascinated with bronze and he built a furnace out of a steel drum and vacuum cleaner to melt metal so he could sculpt.

Gib’s trademark cowboy look emerged in early watercolors and acrylic paintings while he was still in high school, as did the first drawings of what would become his world renowned Biblical style.



THE VATICAN CONNECTION

The "bowed cross" that he developed caught the eye of Pope John Paul II who in turn asked to have the piece attached atop his crozier

After high school Gib served a hitch in the US Army, put himself through college, earned a scholarship to the Chicago Art Institute, then won a Fulbright Fellowship to restore Renaissance art in Europe. Jacqueline Kennedy requested him as the US representative artist to assist with the restoration of flood damaged art in Florence. He studied at the Accademia di Belle Arti in Florence, and was later recruited by the Vatican Workshop. After being working in the Vatican Workshop, he assisted in the restoration of Michelangelo's Pieta, when it was vandalized in 1972.

Despite his many years of producing western art, Singleton is, perhaps, better known for his religious works. The "bowed cross" that he developed while still a young boy in Missouri is featured in many of his works, it caught the eye of Pope John Paul II who in turn asked to have the piece attached atop his crozier. This crozier was then passed to Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis. In addition, one of Singleton's crosses resides near the Shroud of Turin.



Michelangelo's "Pieta" that Gib worked on restoring in 1972



Pope John Paul II with Gib's designed atop his staff

EMOTIONAL REALISM

As his unique style of sculpture developed, Gib coined a new term to describe it — ‘Emotional Realism’.



Dr. Wayne Yakes Private Collection



‘I got the idea of Emotional Realism when I was visiting a museum,’ Gib said. ‘I saw art that touched me deeply, and I realized that the emotions I felt were just as real as that piece I saw hanging on the wall. I think the ability to connect with the viewer on that emotional level determines the success of art, or music or literature.’

While living in the Northeast, Gib visited the Frederic Remington Art Museum and was struck by the power of the artist’s work and of the landscapes they represented. ‘I knew right then I had to go out West,’ he said. ‘I decided to move to Santa Fe and do Western art.’

While his fascination with the West led to the creation of such well known pieces as ‘Texas Ranger’, ‘Black Jack Ketchum’ and ‘Santa Fe Trail’, Gib never lost his love of Biblical and devotional art. In fact, he contended there’s really no difference between the two.

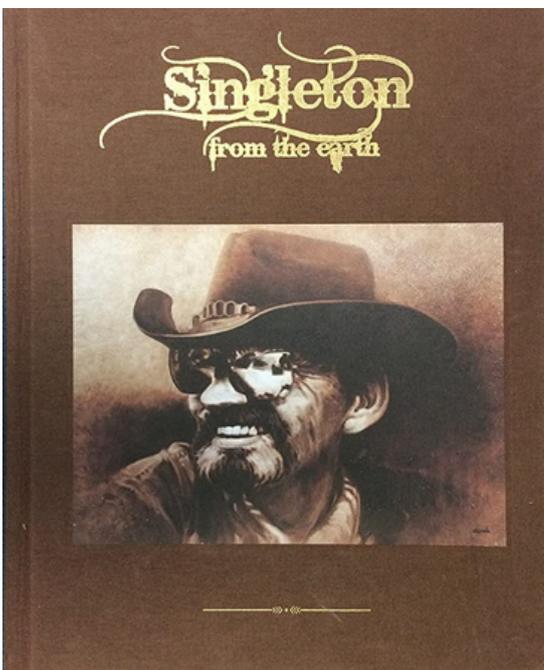
A LASTING LEGACY

Gib seemed to have the foresight in developing his legacy. He created 40 molds of unreleased works which his Estate will release four pieces a year over the next decade.

Gib laid out a plan for his art and legacy. Part of that plan included creating monumental pieces. When Gib traveled through Europe he realized how much of an impact monumental pieces had on him and he was sure other people would have the same impressions.

Gib dreamed big. There are 33 editions of his life-size Stations and he wanted them to be on display in 33 cities throughout the world. Keeping his artwork in the public eye will be the key to the longevity of Gib's Legacy. Gib wanted to have his artwork to be around for 500 years, Gib stated that what happens now is not really that important. What happens 500 years from now is very important.

That means continuing to place pieces in museums, sculpture gardens, and municipalities allows Singleton's art to be alive and in sight. This is exactly what Gib wanted. The sculptor, who invented emotional realism and brought spiritual art back into the mainstream, to continue to impact viewers.



A literary collection along with a video documentary has been created about Gib Singleton and his contribution to the community of art through his evolution of *Emotional Realism* – a concept which he developed – to describe the tangible expressions within the work of his sculptures. A historical documentation so we can never forget the impact he had on the world of art. All this combined validates Gibs work and Legacy to the world.

The Estate, The Museum and AD Galleries are committed to the project for the next 50 plus years at which point the art will have a life of it's own.



NOTABLE PUBLIC & MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

The Museum of Modern Art, New York
Yad Vashem, Israel
Vatican Museum, Rome
Accademia do Belle Arti, Florence
Di Benche Fine Arts, Florence
Rodeo Hall of Fame
The James Museum
Museum of Natural History, New York
Museum of Biblical Art in Dallas, Texas
Museum of the Bible, Washington DC
Singleton-Biss Museum, Santa Fe

NOTABLE PRIVATE COLLECTORS

Andy Warhol
Kurt Russell
Bonnie & Paul Zueger
Mary & Tom James
Russell Crowe
Robert Redford
Olivia & Jeff Kearney
Peter Max
Pierce Brosnan
Douglas & Andrea Forrester
The Tia Collection

THE OLYMPIC MUSEUM LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND

Selected by the Olympic Committee, Singleton was named an official artist for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

The incomplete ring the man is holding represents the athletes attempt at perfection.

