

Preserving Memory: America's Monumental Legacy is made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The exhibition is a project of Save Outdoor Sculpture! (SOS!), a joint program of Heritage Preservation and the Smithsonian American Art Museum. To learn more about SOS!, Heritage Preservation, and how to care for outdoor sculpture and other cultural treasures, visit www.heritagepreservation.org or phone 202-634-1422. To read about sculpture in your community and around the country, search the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Inventory of American Sculpture database at AmericanArt.si.edu. For more information about the National Endowment for the Humanities, a federal agency, visit www.neh.gov.

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Photos: *Dupont Circle Fountain* (1921), Daniel Chester French. Credit: Lee Anderson.
Portrait of a Student (1959), Constantine Seferlis. Credit: courtesy Constantine Seferlis.

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**Preserving Memory: America's
Monumental Legacy**
Eleven Eleven Sculpture Space
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
December 15, 2003–March 13, 2004

Preserving Memory: America's Monumental Legacy

Outdoor sculptures have been described as America's family album, as a string around each community's finger. They are accessible to almost all Americans on a daily basis, but the stories they tell have been lost over time. *Preserving Memory: America's Monumental Legacy* tells the stories of over 200 outdoor sculptures, ranging from "found art" by self-taught artists to commemorative fountains; from totem poles to the Statue of Liberty.

While telling these stories in a series of 20 panels, *Preserving Memory* encourages consideration of the issues and impulses behind the creation of public sculpture. Who chooses who gets memorialized, and how? How do Americans commemorate war and catastrophe, and how do the memorials of today differ from those of earlier generations?

Preserving Memory also explains the most common physical threats to outdoor sculpture. It features communities that have taken steps to preserve these treasures. Special panels for children present information about dogs, horses, and secrets as portrayed in sculpture. The entry panel features the *Dupont Circle Fountain* (1921) by Daniel Chester French (see photo).

Preserving Memory was developed by Save Outdoor Sculpture!, a private/public initiative that has helped communities care for and learn from America's collection of outdoor sculpture.

Through SOS!, 7,000 volunteers documented 32,000 publicly accessible outdoor sculptures for the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Inventory of American Sculpture, and hundreds of sculptures have been saved for future generations.

Preserving Memory is a national touring exhibit that will be seen in 48 communities in 35 states.



Eleven Eleven Sculpture Space
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Monday through Saturday

Please Join Us:

Opening Reception
Tuesday, December 16, 2003
6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.



Sculpture Day
Renwick Gallery of the
Smithsonian American Art Museum
Pennsylvania Avenue at 17th Street, NW
Saturday, March 13, 2004
12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Walking Sculpture Tour

Conservator Nick Veloz will lead a tour of Lafayette Park, to be followed by a slide presentation.

Learning about Sculptors through Archives and Interviews

Dr. Michael Richman, a renowned scholar of Daniel Chester French, will offer his insight on the importance of archival material in gleaning information about the sculptor's life and work. Sculptor Constantine Seferlis will be interviewed by John Sonnier regarding his experiences as a master carver and educator. Mr. Sonnier, a former student of Mr. Seferlis, teaches sculpture at The Corcoran School of Art.

Create Your Own Monument

Kids and grownups alike are invited to become sculptors and make a monument from materials on hand. Think of someone you admire and let your inspiration take shape!

Learn more at www.heritagepreservation.org.

Creating Memory, Preserving Memory: A selection of works from sculptor Constantine Seferlis

Constantine Seferlis, one of a handful of master stone carvers left in the United States, came from his native Greece to the Washington area in the late 1950s. He grew up in a rural area outside Sparta and started carving wood as a young boy. He enrolled at an early age in the National Academy of Fine Arts in Athens, where he made the transition to stone.

Invited to the United States by an artist friend, he moved to Washington, where he was hired to carve sculptures at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Seferlis then moved on to the National Cathedral, where he carved over 200 gargoyles, grotesques, keystones, and freestanding figures.

Since leaving the cathedral in 1978, Seferlis has restored some of this country's most prestigious monuments and buildings for the National Park Service, the Smithsonian Institution, and Hillwood Museum.

Over the years, Seferlis has taught at many schools and art centers. He has exhibited at the National Academy of Design and National Sculpture Society in New York, and has received several prestigious prizes for his striking portraits and other original works.

The works in this exhibition are a sampling of Seferlis' works during his prolific career as a master carver, dedicated restorer, and inspiring teacher.

