

MIT List Visual Arts Center

Dimitri Hadzi

MEDIUM Sculpture

NATIONALITY American

LIFE DATES New York, New York 1921 - 2006 Boston, Massachusetts

Born of Greek parents in New York City in 1921, Dimitri Hadzi graduated with honors from Cooper Union and worked at the Brooklyn Museum Art School. In 1950, he won a Fulbright Fellowship to study sculpture in Athens, Greece. This trip had a great impact upon his aesthetic style, which until then was primarily influenced by the Cubist and post-Cubist works he had viewed in New York. Hadzi considered his studies and copies of ancient works as reinvigorating his work with a new heroic quality of form and content.

In 1952, he went to Rome where he spent the next twenty-five years of his life discovering new influences and working on sculpture. He took courses in bronze casting, jewelry, and ceramics at the Museo Artistico Industriale and in 1954 received a residency at the American Academy in Rome. Renaissance and Baroque architecture as well as ancient and contemporary tragedy were sources for his work during this period.

In 1957, Hadzi entered the competition sponsored by the Auschwitz Memorial Authority for a monument to the Holocaust. He became best known for his monumental semi-abstract sculptures in bronze or stone. After returning to the United States, Hadzi became a professor of Visual and Environmental Studies at Harvard University, where he taught from 1975 to 1989.

In addition to a Fulbright Scholarship, Hadzi was granted a Louis Comfort Tiffany award, a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, a National Institute of Arts and Letters Grant, and an honorary Master of Arts degree from Harvard University as well as an honorary Doctorate of Fine Art from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, and the St. Gaudens Award from Cooper Union. He was a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and a member of the National Academy.

He served as acting director of the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts and chair of the Department of Visual and Environmental Studies at Harvard University. He was inducted as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Boston. Hadzi's work has been shown in a number of solo exhibitions at the Fogg Art Museum and Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts at Harvard University; The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.; the Hopkins Center at Dartmouth College; and multiple commercial galleries. He has also participated in group exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art in New York; the Guggenheim Museum, New York; Musée Rodin, Paris; and Venice Biennale in 1956,



1958, and 1962. Hadzi's work can be found in many public collections, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Whitney Museum, New York; the Guggenheim Museum, New York; the Hirshhorn Museum, Washington, D.C.; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; The Hakone Museum of Sculpture, Tokyo; and MIT. Dimitri Hadzi lived in Cambridge, maintaining a studio in Kendall Square. He died in Boston in 2006.

