

MIT List Center

Mark di Suvero

Former List Public Art Curator, Patricia Fuller describes Aesop's Fables, II, by Mark di Suvero, purchased with MIT's funds for the Northeast sector landscape.

It's really important to walk around sculpture, and if you can, underneath it and behind it. And really get the sense of it from different angles, different distances, different perspectives because it's not a static image.

You're meant to see the shifting plains and the shadows, and the color in motion as you move.

Di Suvero came of age as an artist in the 1950s, just as abstract expressionism was blooming and assumptions of what sculpture should be were shifting. At his first gallery show, di Suvero featured sculptures built from found and salvaged materials, leading one critic to observe, "from now on, nothing will be the same."

Unlike traditional modes of sculpture such as carving and casting in bronze or metals, these works are really assembled. If you look carefully at the sculpture, you can see the individual pieces and the method of how they're joined. You can see the welds, you see the bolts. They're not concealed. They are part of the sculpture.

As with his 2005 work, di Suvero builds the sculptures full scale, piece by piece.

Di Suvero has said sculpture starting out as a maquette or model, then fabricated to order from the foundry has the smell of a soufflé about it. In other words, it's not direct.