

"Whispering Man"
SC Art + Artists - 1980-1989

News June 1985

Whispering Man Mystery Amuses Statue's Creator

Reader's tip leads to Corralitos sculptor
who fashioned library's silent guardian

ROBERT Dubinsky of Corralitos has been positively identified as the sculptor of "The Whispering Man" statue in the foyer of the Santa Cruz Library's main branch on Church Street.

GOOD TIMES contacted Dubinsky after receiving a tip from local Franz Benjamin who read the article, "The Silent Guardian" (GOOD TIMES, June 6, 1985).

Amused his statue had become a "mystery," Dubinsky explained he had removed his name and phone number from the statue two years ago because he constantly was receiving phone calls from people who "just wanted to hang out and watch me sculpt."

The statue is untitled, but sometime during its seven-year tenure at the library, it became known as "The Whispering Man." Dubinsky put the statue at the library after running out of storage room in his home.

"Some people had suggested that it would look great in a library, so I asked if I could put it there in Santa Cruz and they said, 'Sure.'"

The sculpture, which issues a warning of silence to those who visit the library, is part of a series of works Dubinsky worked on in the early 70s in which welded steel forms evolve from the natural shape of redwood root systems.

"Funny thing is," Dubinsky said, "I don't even like it. I keep thinking I'll take it back some day and work on it some more."

Dubinsky first came to Santa Cruz in 1969 to take a teaching assistantship at UCSC. As the course of his graduate work in mathematics progressed, he felt an inner urge to work



Sculptor Robert Dubinsky with work entitled "Emergence"

more with his hands — to develop the "creativity of his right brain" as he put it.

"I took up sculpting because I knew, somehow, that I could do it," he said. "I've never had any real art training; it's just something I do because I like doing it."

Without formal art training, Dubinsky has supported himself and his family over the past 15 years by selling sculptures. His work has been shown at galleries and exhibitions in Florida, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Santa Cruz. More than 20 of his works recently were shown at a major gallery in New York City.

Though he is now involved in producing and publishing educational software, Dubinsky does manage to keep his hands in sculpting, putting in 12 to 15 hours a week on various projects.

"That way I don't get to the point where I'm working instead of creating," he said. •