



DEITY

1615 Poydras Street
New Orleans

1995
87 x 78 inches
Sandblasted gold over clay and dental stone
Installation in lobby of the Freeport-McMoRan Building, New Orleans

“I’m interested in the idea of sculpture that is both abstract and fragmented – it’s not a whole figure or even necessarily a recognizable figure,” said George Dunbar about the majestic, sensuous fragmented form he created for the lobby of 1615 Poydras.

Recognized as the dean of mixed media artists in New Orleans, Dunbar works every day in his studio in Slidell, Louisiana, in dusty jeans and a faded bandana. While he has numerous two-dimensional works on display *Deity* is his first large public sculpture. The distressed gold leaf torso represents a shift from the hard-edged geometric forms, for which he is so well known, a transition that he had explored only on a small scale prior to this piece.

“From a sculptural point of view, fragments are sometimes more interesting than the whole,” said Dunbar. “I have a theory that if you roll something down a mountain, the pieces that break off are not really the most sculptural aspect of the figure, not the fundamental shapes. What remains is better than the original.”

Dunbar sculpted the giant torso in modeling paste over an aluminum armature or frame, applied leaf and then used various means, including sandblasting, to distress the work in order to obtain the desired patina.

“A mark of a fine artist is that he makes his art look easy. I have watched with pleasure the evolution and transformation of George Dunbar’s art and I have been impressed by its logical simplicity ... Dunbar creates art which speaks of elegance and refinement.”

William A. Fagaly, Assistant Director for Art
New Orleans Museum of Art

