Luther College Fine Arts Collection

Outdoor Sculptures

Ernest Friedrich Rietschel (1804-1861)
Martin Luther
Bronze
LFAC #976.00.00

This sculpture was erected in 1911 as part of Luther College's 50th Anniversary celebrations. It is a replica of the Ernst Rietschel sculpture in Worms, Germany, but is actually a third-generation sculpture. This means that the original sculpture, by Rietschel, provided the molds for a second version of this Martin Luther sculpture located at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO. Luther College's sculpture was made from the molds of the sculpture at Concordia Seminary.

Gerhard Marcks (1889-1981)
Oedipus and Antigone
Bronze
LFAC #2000.01.01

Wilfred and Ruther Jensen Bunge donated this sculpture to Luther College. Six castings have been made of this sculpture, but only two were given to areas in the United States. The work was purchased from the Lempertz-Contempora art gallery in Cologne, Germany. A replacement casting of the statue was installed outside of the Center for Faith and Life following acid damage inflicted on Luther College's original in April 2015.

The statue was inspired by Oedipus at Colonus, one of three plays about Oedipus written in the fifth century BCE by Greek dramatist Sophocles. Through a tragic series of incidents beyond his control, Oedipus unwittingly killed his father and married his mother, thereby fulfilling a prophecy told to his parents when he was born. Once he learned what he had done, Oedipus blinded himself out of grief and wanted to Greece as a beggar, accompanied by his daughter, Antigone. An outcast to most, Oedipus was allowed into Attica by the King of Athens, where he entered into an olive grove and was never seen again – apparently taken up by the gods. The sculpture depicts Oedipus as he is about to enter the olive grove and gain release from his life of suffering and agony. Knowing that the end is near, he separates from his loving daughter, Antigone, who can no longer help him – Oedipus knew he must face death alone.
**Tarkjel Landsverk (1859-1981)**  
*Pioneer Memorial*  
Cement, Stone  
LFAC #975.00.00

The Laur Larsen memorial was commissioned for Laur Larsen’s 100th birthday in 1933. In 1936, Luther College celebrated its 75th anniversary by expanding the memorial into what is now known as the *Pioneer Memorial*. Since its dedication, the *Pioneer Memorial* has been used in many ways, including open-air worship services and commemorative events. It continues to serve as a “logo” for the college.

**Edward McCullough**  
*Elegy #10*  
Steel  
LFAC #969.00.00

This sculpture was built while Edward McCollough was an artist-in-residence fellow at Kankakee Community College in Kankakee, Illinois. It is part of the *Elegy Series*, which consists of ten abstract sculptures created over a span of seven years that were inspired by the Rainer Maria Rilke poem cycle “The Duono Elegies,” written between 1912 and 1922. McCollough has written that the poem cycle inspired him to think about “nature in the widest sense of the word, and our transitory place among all else that’s transitory within this common source.”

The work was purchased from the artist by Luther College in 1993 with funds donated by Ruth and Wilfred Bunge. At that time, McCullough wrote that the sculpture would look especially inviting in winter, as the “snow drifts move up and into the forms of the piece, becoming a part of the greater three-dimensional whole.”
Paul Granlund  
3-D Tree of Life  
Bronze  
LFAC #2007.04.01

This sculpture was given to Luther College by Ruth and Wilfred Bunge in August 2007 in honor of their parents, Hilda Freuchte Bunge, Franklin Bunge, Martha Andersen Jensen and Axel Jensen. It was formally dedicated on October 5, 2007, in an outdoor chapel service in front of the sculpture at which Will Bunge spoke. In his message, Bunge elaborated on the function of the sculpture as a “family tree, without the specificity of the usual family tree. The model is an ideal model, to be sure.” At the conclusion of his address, Bunge stated, “Come and see. Look often as you walk by. Images that don’t deserve our attention litter our lives. We need some that enrich our gaze, and thus our lives.”

Jeffery Boshart  
I Am  
Wood  
LFAC #2008.05.01

This sculpture was created during an artist-in-residence experience led by Jeffery Boshart at Luther College from September 17-21, 2007. During that time, students collaborated with Boshart to create the sculpture. Faculty and staff were also invited to participate in its creation. In his Artist’s Statement, Boshart said that he hoped the sculpture was able to help return “the spirit of the might oak trees” to the campus.
The sculpture was donated to Luther College by the artist, Edward McCullough. During the dedication speech by the artist, he said, “The Meridian sculptures are grounded at a place and they’re also airborne – the forms that define open spaces also release themselves and their spaces upward and then...bring it all back again, you with it. Everything therein is connected to everything else; inseparability, meridian.” Other works from the Meridian Series can be found at the McLean County Arts Center and the Central Illinois Regional Airport, Bloomington, IL; the Admiral Michael Boorda Memorial in Momence, IL; the Unified Public Schools, Watertown, WI; Dominican University, River Forest, IL; Kankakee Community College, Kankakee, IL; Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL; and the Chicago Police Headquarters Building.