

## Domenico Casasanta / CARACAS — '77

Well, first of all my English is just my English — not the true English, so I'm sorry. But I learned all I have from being here. When I came I could only say three words.

When I work small, I work in marble. The biggest thing I make is maybe five feet. When I work big and outside, I switch to steel, or when I work indoors on a large scale, I use wood. I prefer wood because it's rich and textured. I like plywood because it comes in special units, special thicknesses. But Canadian plywood is very soft compared with the plywood we have in Caracas.

I left Italy when I was twenty-two, so I think I'm not an Italian artist, and when I first went to Venezuela it was not a very good time. The last revolution had just started. So I've been making art for only nine years, and I think that Caracas has a strong influence on my work. Caracas loves architecture and I love architecture. Caracas is a very young city — the only bad thing is that we destroy the old city — and while the new city is just like any big city in the world, it's something special, if just for me. When I return, I will be doing a sculpture in collaboration with an architect. The work I'm designing will be 22 by 220 feet and it will be rendered in concrete. It's my first *big* commission, although I've had lots of others.

I like to use prefabricated material — marble cut to precision thickness, plywood, etc. — but then I want to mold the material as the design I have in mind suggests, I want to give the material *detail*.

Sometimes I want to destroy the material and any material — bronze, steel, marble, wood — is good for me. When I started, I was not sure where my piece would go, but now I understand it will be in the new Mall at Park Royal. I think it will be a good place because the work will have some relationship to the architecture and that is what I like and I know it will be a good space, a big space with lots of light.

It was a good experience being here. I learned a way to work with other artists although I cannot be changed. And although I won't change my art because of this symposium, it has enriched my knowledge about art and other artists. And next week I'll be seeing the real country. I'm going to the Arctic.

— DOMENICO CASASANTA





