

Hadyn Davies /

SYMPOSIUM PIECE (FOR EVA)

I am interested in constructivist artists in general (Ben Nicholson is one name you'd know). And now that I've tended to reduce the volumes in my works and go to much more linear pieces, I'm being called a constructivist myself. My primary medium is steel but I think it was on the basis of a large wood piece that I made for Lambton College of Arts and Technology that I was invited to participate in this symposium. In certain sites the warmth and colour of wood work very well.

Symposium Piece (For Eva) is made of red cedar. The ten units that compose it were precut, prelaminated to my specifications. Further elements were added after I came to Vancouver. As the work is placed outdoors in front of the West Vancouver Municipal Hall, I had to consider carefully the prospect of its survival. After many discussions with Western Forest Laboratories, I decided to char black the entire surface of each unit with a propane torch, treat the end rings with epoxy adhesive, treat all the surfaces with oil. Its lasting quality is ensured. I think it will outlast me, anyhow. And the colour is right with the grey of the building.

I like to work for a particular site and I was very pleased with the one I chose. Further, I was delighted that the Municipal Hall would accept a work sight unseen. At no time was there any kind of judgment imposed and this meant a fascinating reversal of what one might expect — I drove myself even harder than usual to fulfil a responsibility.

I like to work from a maquette so that I can begin to work out how the piece will be viewed by people standing around it. The first, on a scale of one-inch-to-a-foot, was not sufficiently detailed to permit me to understand the jointing details, so I made another maquette on the scale of two-inch-to-a-foot that I could take apart and study as I was executing the final work. As I assembled *Symposium Piece (For Eva)* the smaller maquette was on the site for people to examine so that they would have a sense of the final conception; the larger maquette which I assembled piece by piece as I went along showed them and me precisely where I was at any given moment. This process, so important for me, interested them.

I am pleased with the final result. I am happy that people are getting out of their cars to have a good look at the sculpture.

— HADYN DAVIES



