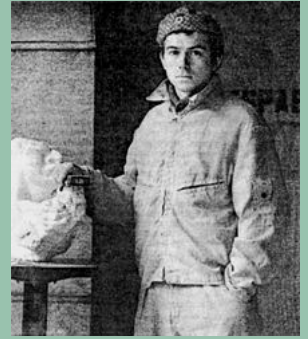


FEATURED ARTIST

Alexei Kazantsev

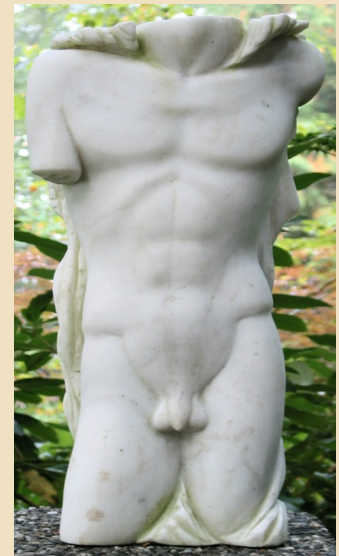


Alexei Kazantsev was born in Alexandrov, near Moscow. From age 7 to 10, he was confined to bed for a rare medical condition. To pass the time, he drew patterns on the wall, which soon developed into drawing everything. As a teenager, he went to Moscow to study with his uncle, a famous sculptor. He completed his B.A. in fine art and his MFA at the Moscow State Academy from 1985-1991, and participated in the PHD program for sculpture at the Russian Fine Art Academy from 1991-1992. He found success, but soon tired of Soviet social realism. He began doing primitive, naturalistic designs, which didn't go over very well and Alexei soon found himself in the Russian artistic underground.

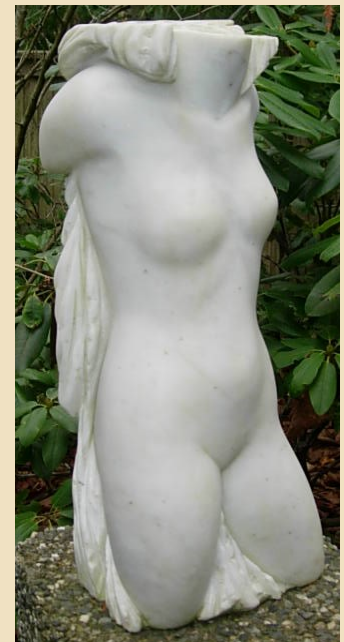
In 1993, he jumped on the opportunity to travel to America and ended up in Lincoln, NE. A fortuitous meeting with a gallery owner allowed Kazantsev the space and resources to begin establishing himself as a sculpture, away from the shadow of his famous uncle. In 1996, he became the owner of Moon Couple Designs in Covington, LA. He served as the Artist-In-Residence for three different galleries between 1993 and 1998.

Kazantsev's sculpture has always been grounded in the eternal nature and timeless quality of stone. He works primarily in marble, sandstone, concrete, and limestone, always sculpting with a reverence for established space. Many of his pieces seek to find the mutuality between male and female energy. "In my sculpture, I strive to restore our admiration and awe, of the nurturing and sustaining virtues of female energy. This concept of balance and harmony can draw us into symmetry with the arrangement of our existence, and serve as a visual remedy to hostility in our culture." (Kazantsev, *My Art*, <http://aksculptstudios.com/statement.html>)

Kazantsev currently resides on Whidbey Island. His work can be found in commissions and private collections around the world.



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