



MICHAEL ALFANO

Of Many Minds

The Navy Yard Garden & Art, in partnership with the Boston Planning & Development Agency, is offering the public the unique experience, *Of Many Minds*, featuring 20 large scale sculptures by Michael Alfano, to be displayed at the Charlestown Navy Yard along the Boston Harborwalk. Alfano's monumental, figurative bronze and mixed media sculptures will be organized into groups of six along a one-mile section of the Harborwalk, stretching from the USS Constitution National Park to Mayor Menino Park at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, "where more than a million people per year, of all walks of life, will be able to access art and culture free of charge," notes the exhibition press release.

In addition, the artworks will be paired with open ended quotes to encourage other interpretations, while also furthering Alfano's philosophical themes. "There are so many layers and meanings to Michael's sculptures," remark collectors of his work, Bonnie and Scott Dittrich. "Spending the time to contemplate one of his pieces of art can arouse many different emotions or, if just casually observing for pure enjoyment his art, can convey emotions on an entirely other realm."

Alfano is primarily a figurative sculptor, with all his pieces portraying a deeper message and telling significant stories. "For me, the human figure is so important to my work," says the artist. "[It] speaks to our sensibility and our life condition, and the overall inspiration is creating pieces that speak to humanity. I also found that the human face [in particular] is so recognizable and poignant. We're brought up to have faces as the center of our lives. [Creating sculptural faces has been] a wonderful way to capture attention and speak to people individually.

For example, Alfano's *Liquid Sunshine*, an eight-foot-tall aluminum piece depicting a partial face forming from a can of pouring yellow paint, speaks to "pouring creativity out into the world," he says. The piece is paired with the quote, "Turn towards the sun and all shadows will fall behind you," adapted from Charles Swain. Alfano notes that while this is very logistically true, it



