

Marc Zaref Artists Statement

Enso Sculptures

In Zen school of Buddhism, enso is a circle that is made with one movement of a brush with ink on paper. The strength of the line, its splashes, rugged bumps and seamless flow are filled with subtle, yet complex nuances. Each example reflects the uniqueness of the creator and the moment in time it is expressed. The artist's mind is revealed along with their acceptance of imperfection.

My initial explorations of making ensos came during my study of Japanese language and writing. It brought me to Kyoto, Japan where I witnessed a monk creating scrolls – masterpieces of calligraphic forms. What I missed during my first day of observation, I witnessed at the beginning of next. As a “warm up” the artist began making ensos and then writing in Kanji, his expression of the moment alongside.

While the act of making the mark has a spiritual context, I learned it is also very light hearted, full of humor and free expression. What was written alongside were statements such as “What is This?,” “I find Myself on the Verge of a Usual Mistake,” “The Perfection of Imperfection,” “The Magic of Every Moment.”

As I became comfortable with the processes of forging, shaping and welding steel, I've been able to translate the expression and concepts of enso in both preparing elements and then “drawing” with metal.

[Examples of Enso sculptures by Marc Zaref](#)

