

## THE QUEST FOR THE ESSENCE

Holger Schmidt's artistic idea is based on the concept of reducing the form. He selectively concentrates the natural form at the search of an ideal and abstract shape! His art consists last but not least in omission, always to quest the consolidated best form.

This method means more than its technical aspects. The artistic narration as well is a reduced and concentrated one. Schmidt tries to emphasize human character. Very different character and in dissimilar situations, but shown in the gesture, the facial expression and the posture of the body!

The ostensible effect of extremeness is in fact understatement: all the unimportant and marginal details are eliminated – nothing else remains than the essence, through its simplification as increased enhancement.

Schmidt is targeting the abstract types of characters, not the personalized. His sculptures are concisely, but not at all anecdotic. The narrative aspect is secondary – to the artist. The contemplator is allowed to find his or her own storybook character, provoked by the summarization of form and expression.

Observing the figures one will think of some real person, may be of an acquaintance, may be of a prominent.

The enormously process of concentration of form and expression find its analogy in Schmidt's technical perfection and the hand-work metal finishing of these casted bronze sculptures.

Schmidt's handling of the human figure and its form presume a great power of observation and a close study of human physiognomy. Not only in his portraits both of it is obvious!

In his art, Schmidt never assimilated the mainstream trends and requirements of the "modernism"!

His works are definitely figurative. But in details, if we would scan the surface through a passé-par-tout, we will find a non-figurative and modern shape, form and art!

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(translation and revision: A. Lamothe, Munich)