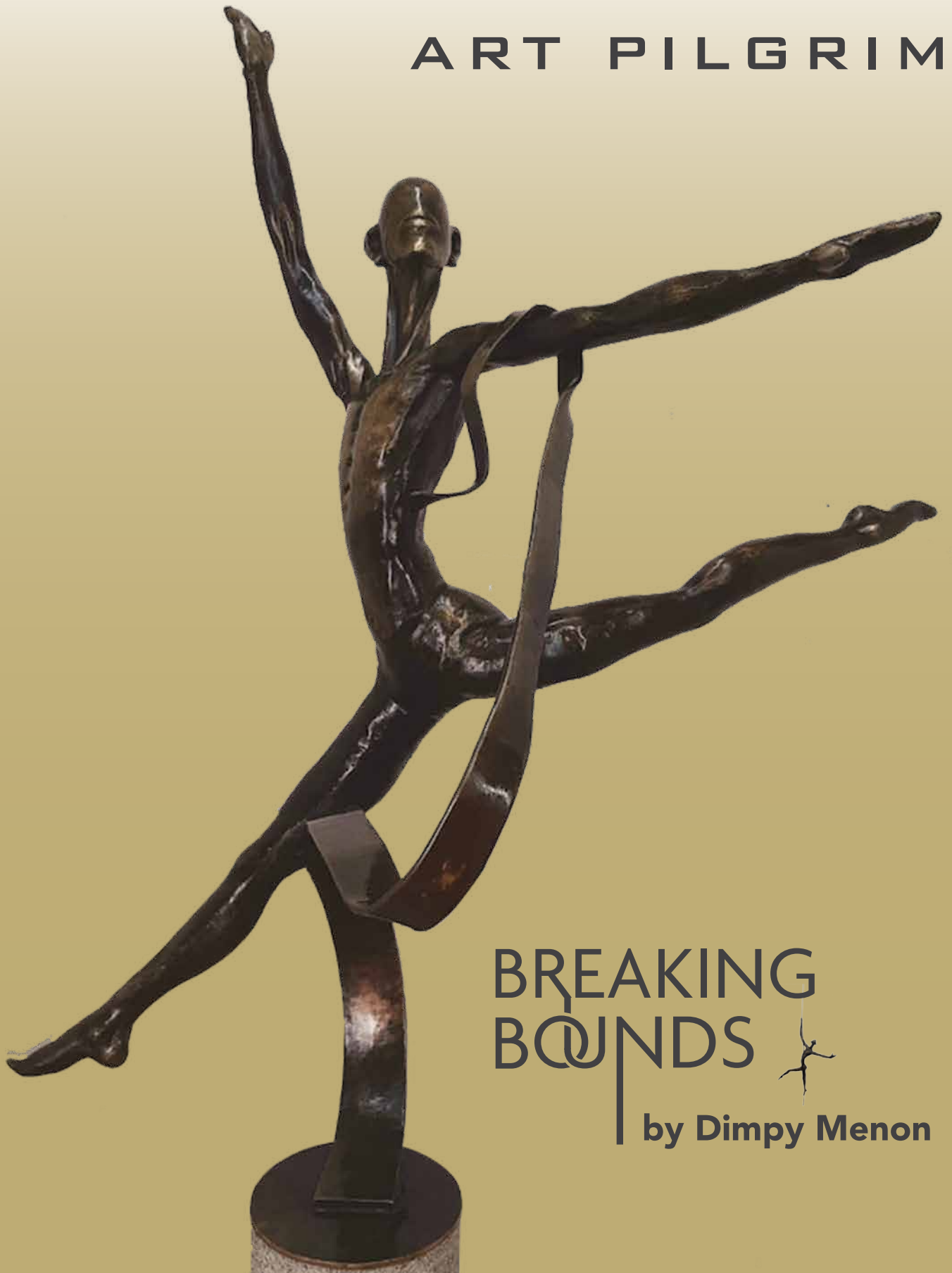


ART PILGRIM



BREAKING
BOUNDS



| by Dimpy Menon

BREAKING BOUNDS



By Reema Moudgil

Ribbons of connection extended to the self and the other. The stillness of balance. The taut energy of suspension. The pure joy of release. The exultant playfulness of freedom. The lyrical protagonists of sculptor Dimpy Menon's latest series rejoice, meditate, dance and luxuriate in the lightness of their being.

In togetherness, the figures complete unsaid sentences as they hover above the unknown precariously with threads that won't snap because they are made of faith. There are no wasted spaces in Dimpy's world. Her men and women extend their limbs to embrace what is and isn't. Sometimes to literally reach out to the stars, or to ride the waves, to just sit in repose surrounded by blossoms, sometimes to strike a pose on an orb, or to swim in tandem towards an unseen shore, to leap beyond imposed restrictive limits of existence, to just watch in wonder the unfolding of a water lily and to converse with a sheltering tree.

What you take away from these works is the aftertaste of fruition. And the lingering sweetness of the thought that this is an artist whose soul is at home in the universe.

And that is why her protagonists fall with ease into the hollows of time, space and serenity.

In 2015, Dimpy won the Lorenzo il Magnifico Bronze award at the Florence Biennale, becoming the first Indian sculptor to do so.

Dimpy's human figures have always had that ease whether sketched on a wall, painted on a canvas or poured into a sculpture. Despite being featureless, they are distinct.

You cannot mistake the communicative tilt or lift of the head, the poetry of the limbs that cradle life or bristle to grasp what lies beyond the imaginable, the possible. But what registers most strongly is a soaring, transcendent spirit made visible.

Her work is a pause between two breaths. Like that moment when the extraneous

noise fades and a needlepoint of light begins to expand, liquefy, and pours itself into the hollows of the being.

As she says, "You can create anything you want. I choose to create joy."

This is the keynote of her creative process. She recounts a time when just the exuberance of inspiration was an end in itself. The toil was not as fulfilling as it is today.

She says, "The first flush of inspiration gave me a high. The joy of responding to an artistic impulse had sufficient amplitude. But time has a way of changing perspective, how you look at life, at the minutiae of your own work, even the corners not visible to the gaze. And you begin to see what you missed earlier and then you cannot let a rough edge be. It has to be refined. Just because your gaze has become more refined."

What has remained constant though is that her quest for meaning, purpose and light in the chaos that precedes the completion of a work in her studio. Her figures unrestricted by ponderous heaviness break free to leap and fly even as they stay connected to the earth.

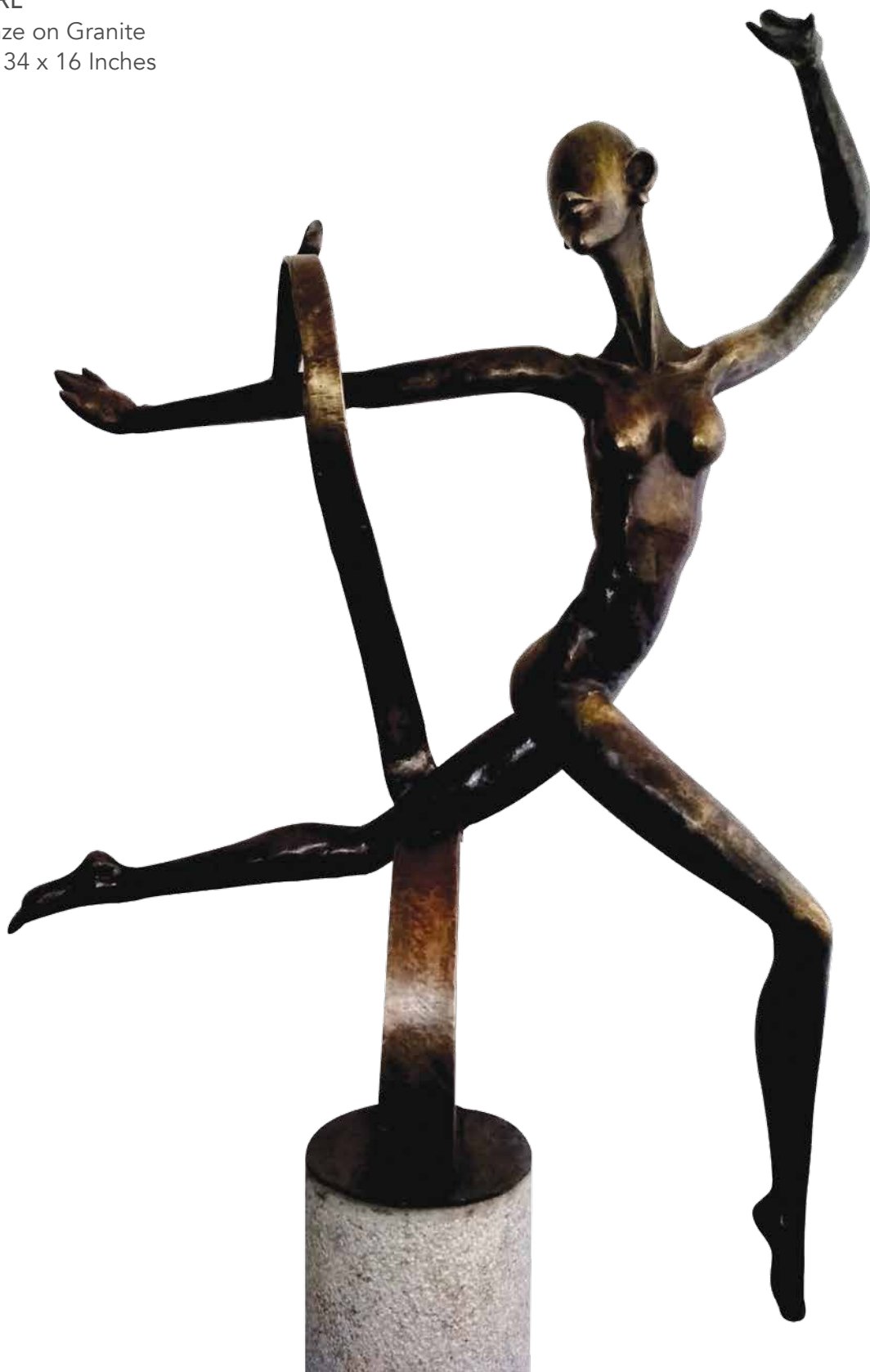
Fittingly, the Trident at Mumbai, chose one of her seven-foot bronze sculptures to bring its ravaged lobby back to life after 26/11 and to proclaim the persistence of hope, love and the divine within, after the devastating terror attack. What visitors saw was a couple attempting a leap of faith. The hotel went on to commission over 100 of her works for their various properties.

Dimpy says, "I have eternal gratitude also to have this capacity to create." And we are grateful too, because without Dimpy Menon's art, the world would have been bereft of an important message.

(Reema Moudgil, a journalist since 1994 has written on cinema, theatre, music, art, and architecture. Her first novel Perfect Eight was published in 2010).

TWIRL

Bronze on Granite
56 x 34 x 16 Inches



LOTUS POND

Bronze

12 x 11 x 10 Inches



RAPTURE

Bronze on Granite
14 x 11.5 x 7 Inches



FLOWER ACROSS MY TABLE

Bronze

40 x 33 x 26 Inches



FLYING

Bronze on Granite
28 x 16 x 8 Inches



SOLO FOR TWO
Bronze on Granite
57 x 21 x 14 Inches



STILL ON THE BALL

Bronze on Granite

14 x 12 x 6 Inches





ON THE BALL
Bronze on Granite
18 x 12 x 6 Inches

GOD'S VOICE
Bronze and Wood
35 x 27 x 23 Inches





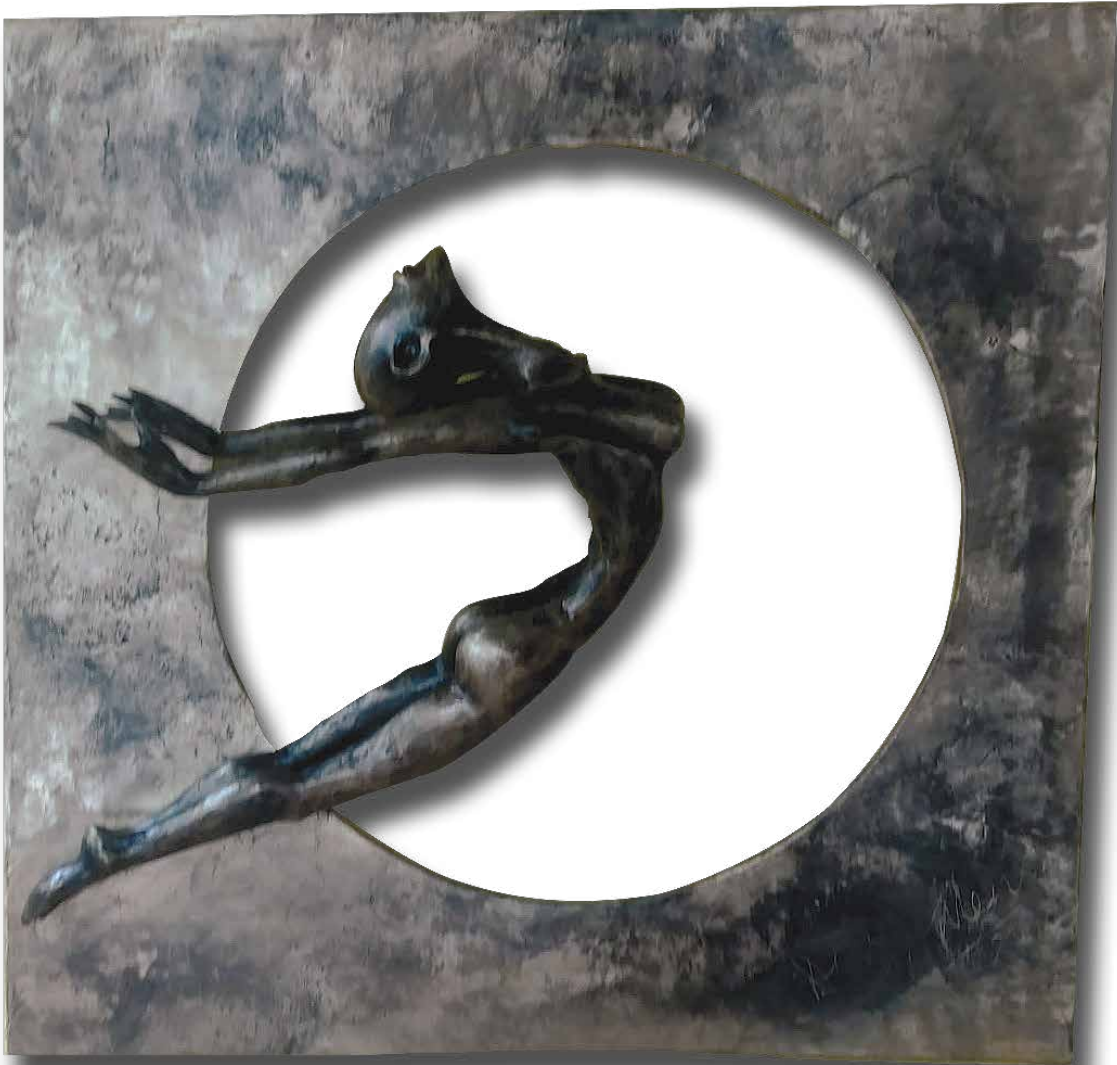
JOY
Bronze on Granite
79 x 33 x 27 Inches



RIDING THE WAVE

Bronze

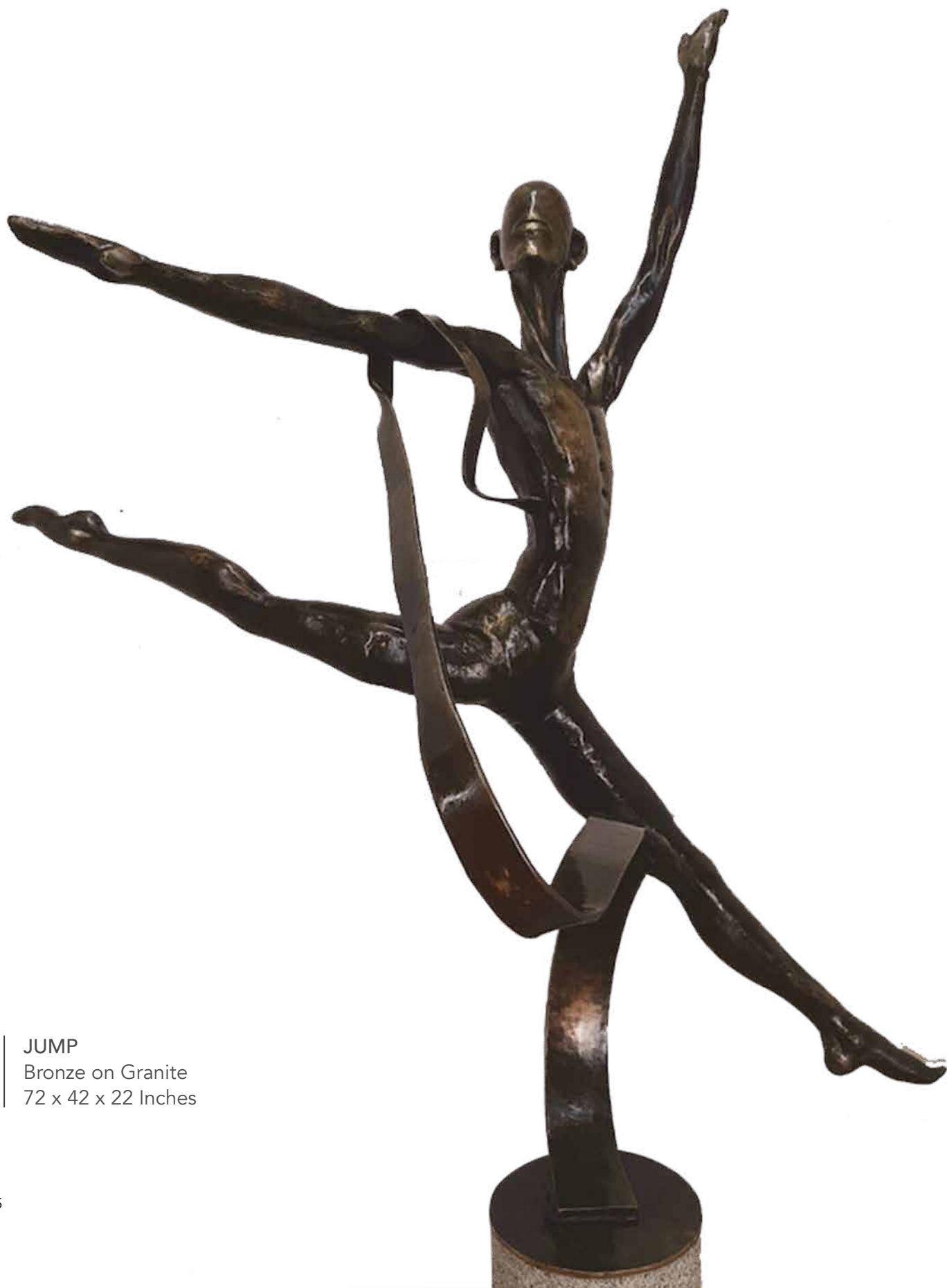
10 x 20 x 16 Inches



FREEDOM

Bronze

24 x 25 x 10 Inches



JUMP

Bronze on Granite
72 x 42 x 22 Inches



SWAYING

Bronze off the wall series
23 x 22 x 17 Inches

MOON, STAR AND SEA

Bronze

13 x 26 x 10.5 Inches





DANCER
Bronze on Granite
32 x 14 x 8 Inches



EXPANSE
Bronze off the wall series
40 x 29 x 19 Inches



UPWARDS
Bronze
78 x 24 x 22 Inches



DOWNWARDS
Bronze
91 x 21 x 12 Inches



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