CHUCK VON SCHMIDT

BORN
Paducah, KY, 1945

WORKS
Long Island, NY

EDUCATION
Univ. Fla. (Arch major); Univ. Maryland (European Div.); Chicago City College; Cooper Union, BFA; Brooklyn College, MFA; St. John’s

MATERIALS
A variety of materials which reflect the diversity of cultures which passed through the Bamiyan Valley including silk cocoons, lava and beetle wings.

SUBJECT MATTER
The Bamiyan series is a response to the Taliban’s destruction of two colossal statues of Buddha in the Bamiyan Valley in Afghanistan.

INSPIRATION
Mother Earth and all Her diverse expressions of life, man’s passage through time on this planet and momentous events of the past.

For more information:
www.von-schmidt.com
www.stac.edu/amag

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE
This artwork is based on historical representations of the Buddha, specifically sparked by the destruction of the colossal Buddhas in Afghanistan. Students should pay attention to the varied materials used to produce the same subject.

TO TAKE AWAY
What is the first and most important thing we look at when we study earlier civilizations? How can we see ancient art in a contemporary context?

HOW COULD THIS RELATE?

POLITICAL SCIENCE
The genesis for this project was a crime against culture- the destruction of 1500 year old statues of Buddha. How is this another form of terrorism? How does destroying art, religious or cultural artifacts change the world? How could this loss provide change and inspiration as well?

HISTORY
The Bamiyan Buddha’s were stone sentinels representing the rich and diverse influence of the Silk Road. What was the importance of this trade route? How was it able to spread culture and religion in the same way it transported silk and spices?

SOCIOLOGY
Sculpture projects often take materials from one setting and present them in another. The often jarring result produces something entirely different from its components. How can using materials as diverse as silk cocoons, beetle wings and cast molten lava present something in a way that is different from its original intended purpose?