

UDDEN 2023

Hunnebostrand – Bohuslän – Sweden

LAPIS MENTE FACTUS – LAPIS MANU FACTUS MIND MADE STONE – HAND MADE STONE

900 million years ago, the Bohus Granite was given birth
with the help of intensive heat and dense pressure.

Ice, wind and salty waves were the eroding forces shaping
a unique landscape on the west coast of Sweden.

The infinite sky allows all forms of clouds to caress the seaside with their shadows.

Long after the force of nature was the only architect on our planet, mankind appeared.
About two million years ago, the HOMO HABILIS, the man with skills, started his urge to
survive under the surrounding conditions. "The skilled man" works with the closely provided
material, and with time, he forged the first needed tools to carve, to shape and to form stone
on purpose: a stone wheel, a millstone, a stone to sharpen tools, a stone on a tomb, a stone
to support, a stone to carve in a letter or a symbol, etc.

A quarry can provide a block on measure or a simple stone to start with.

We, the sculptors, are addicted to the cut block, the raw block or even a ruff boulder.

Michelangelo reminds us that in the inside of every stone you can find a sculpture.
We decrease, we slim, we search and find the essential form. We work like archaeologists
and bring to daylight what our minds create and our hands are able to define. For a
millennium, the sculptors, among others, were deeply needed to build the greatest cathedrals
on religious territory. Late Middle Ages and Renaissance are the birth of signed works done
by an *individuum*, done by a sculptor.

Udden is a place flooded by light, salty smell and solid ground.

At Udden, sculptors proudly prove that they are controlling the forces of horizontal and
vertical balances. They utilize their experience to shape geometrical forms with perfect
angles and edges. In the organic vocabulary, they reign over the curve and the contra-curve.
The multiple ways of working on the outside skin of a Bohus granite sometimes seem
unlimited and invite all visitors to a tactile journey. Others carve into the deep dimensions
inside of a block, close to the core of this hard material.

The sculpture thus seems to lose its dense weight and not to follow the rules of gravity
anymore. The sculptors tame the crystals of the Bohus granite to achieve an ultimate third
dimension. The result of this physical and intellectual work is able to create the illusion that
stone is a malleable material and that the authors can bend it.

The selected works for the Udden 2023 edition wisely show the potency of creation and the
intimate relation between the granit and the stone whisperers.

Inspired by Arthur Dove (*A Way to look at Things*, 1925) I say: "No shoes fit like sand, no
clothes fit like water, no thoughts fit like air, no skills fit like time".

Tom Flick, Sculptor