



DAVID UMEMOTO

modern shapes gallery

CATALOG

DAVID UMEMOTO

The work of David Umemoto exudes mystery, stimulates the imagination, but at the same time gives a sense of reflective discipline. In the twilight zone between sculpture and architecture, these pieces evoke the feeling of temporary buildings and monuments.

ARTISTIC APPROACH

The concrete works of David Umemoto stand as studies about volume. At the juncture of sculpture and architecture, these miniature pieces evoke temporary buildings or monuments standing on far-away lands. The images conveyed in the mind by these works are numerous. They refer to the archaic and the ephemeral, despite the solidity and the modernity of the medium. Appearing before our eyes are pre-Columbian rock dwellings, god statues from the Andes or Easter Island, steles deteriorated by rain, remnants of modern cities having survived a cataclysm, fragments of Babylonian cities, colonial settlements brought down to their foundations, cenotaphs abandoned in the jungle. The production of David

Umemoto's works follows a process of slow and silent transformation. The creative process seeks to imitate the cycles of nature, which are cycles of erosion and re-creation. Lines shift, change and are in a state of perpetual mutation due to the influence of time and weather. The natural architectures of geological strata and crystals stand as models: They inspire the design of the moulds in which the concrete is cast. The ductile and infinitely adaptive nature of the material enables the production of objects that are both similar and different. The development of the works is thoughtful and iterative, yet it makes room for improvisation, adaptation, and spontaneous inspiration. The shapes created by Umemoto line up in sequences

of combinatorial variations. Each work offers a different face but these faces all belong to the same lineage. This kinship gives a strong unity to Umemoto's production and allows for the exploration of the theme of transformation through time and tradition. All of Umemoto's pieces are handmade, in order to respect an economy of means. The pressure of modernity imposes on man the obligation to evolve constantly, which leads him into an endless race towards technological improvement.

As an artist, Umemoto chooses to react by taking a step backwards. His manual activities result from a desire to simplify artistic practice. Aesthetics and formalism are thus combined with a commitment to plainness. Opting for a low-tech stance, the artist wants to resist the demands of progress. He creates structured and modular pieces but these never perfectly fit together, a result of their willingly imperfect mode of production. Umemoto's art is rooted in Americanness: His varied creations take their impetus from a desire to start settlements and to colonize wild lands, where nature is always on the verge of resuming its rights. When one sees Umemoto's architecture sculptures, one thinks of the modernist complex of

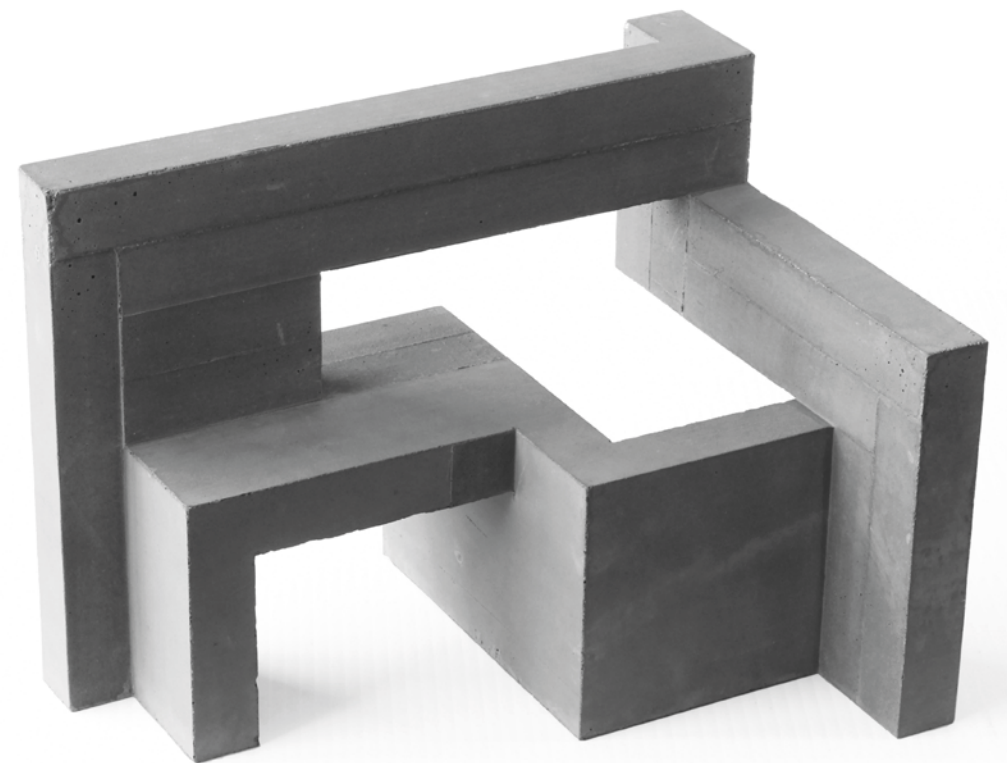
Brasilia by Niemeyer, lost in the Amazonian jungle, or of the complex of Chandigarh by Le Corbusier, in the heart of India. The walls rising towards nowhere, the curves running into ceilings, and the staircases leading into the void are reminiscent of the mysterious Prisons of Piranesi. One way or another, these are always works.

FOLDED STONE 1, 2020

casted concrete

H 20 x W 28 x D 20 cm

1.200 EUR



FOLDED STONE 2, 2020

casted concrete

H 30 x W 30 x D 30 cm

1.800 EUR



FOLDED STONE 3, 2020

casted concrete

H 30 x W 23 x D 18 cm

1.500 EUR



FOLDED STONE 12, 2020

casted concrete

H 46 x W 33 x D 18 cm

3.000 EUR

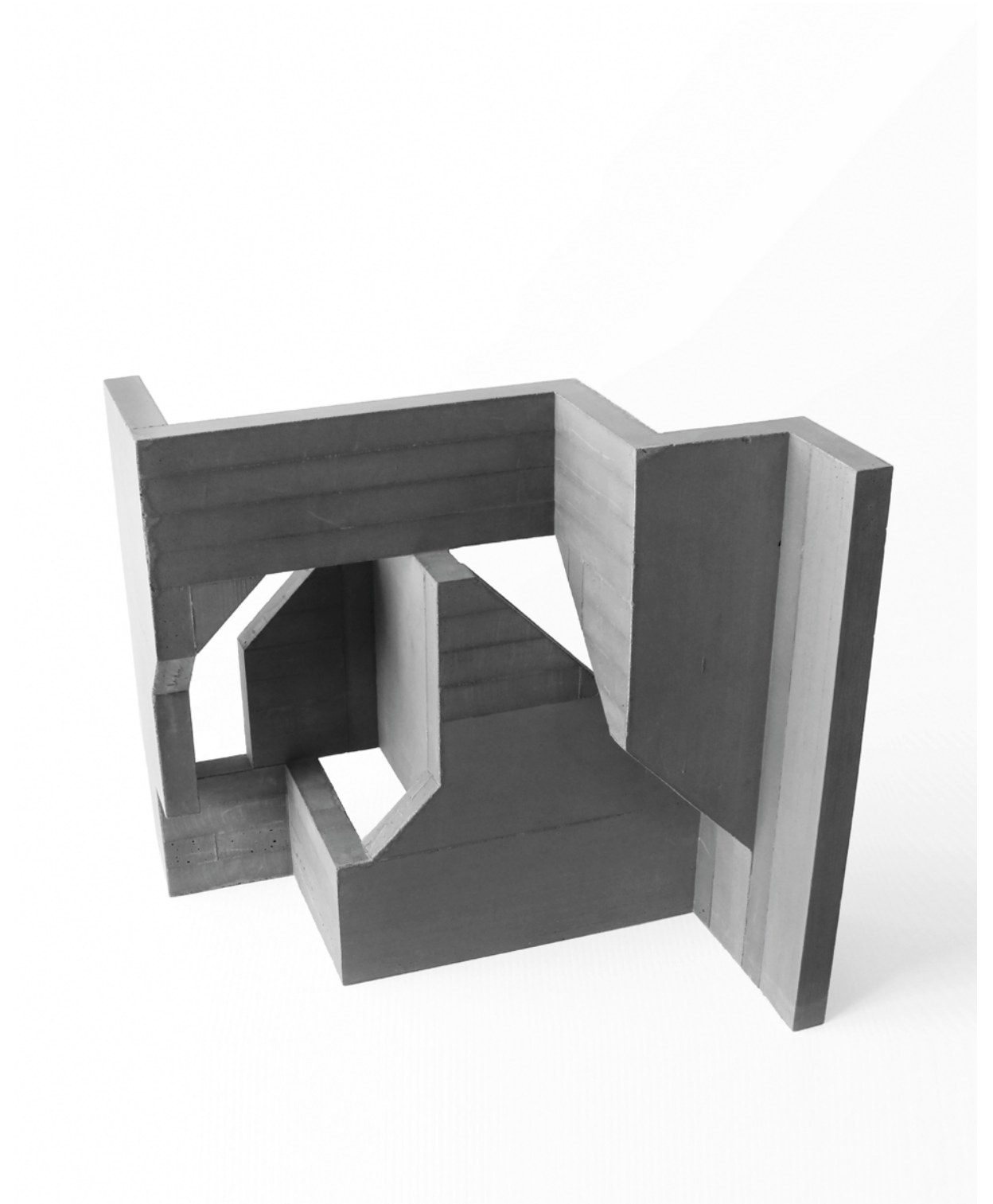


FOLDED STONE 8, 2020

casted concrete

H 40 x W 40 x D 35 cm

2.300 EUR



ARCADE N°2

unica

H 28 x W 28 x D 10 cm

2.000 EUR



STAIRWAY N°5

unica

H 30 x W 30 x D 10 cm

2.000 EUR



ARCADE N°3

unica

H 28 x W 28 x D 10 cm

2.000 EUR



DISCLOSURE

casted concrete

H 30 x W 30 x D 30 cm

3.000 EUR



DISTRICT 1

casted concrete

H 52 x W 23 x D 23 cm

3.500 EUR



MONEY TREE

casted concrete

H 45 x W 25 x D 20 cm

3.500 EUR



CIRCONVOLUTIONS N°6

casted concrete

H 36 x W 28 x D 33 cm

3.800 EUR



CIRCONVOLUTIONS N°5

casted concrete

H 28 x W 23 x D 23 cm

2.800 EUR



DAVID UMEMOTO

After graduating in Architecture, David works for several years in established firms gaining solid practical experience. Thereafter, he opens his own consulting studio where for ten years he participates in numerous architectural competitions and collaborates on various artistic projects. He develops an interest in object creation and furniture design while refining his expertise in 3D computer graphics. In 2010, he spends a year in Indonesia, where he studies printmaking, sculpture and foundry. Upon his return, he launches the DXU collective that specializes in creating murals in aluminum and bronze. His current work stands between architecture and sculpture.



