Cover Art

Sleep's embrace

The image on this issue's cover is a detail from a life-size bronze sculpture called *Caring* by Bruno Lucchesi (born in Lucca, Italy in 1926). The sculpture is located between the atrium of the Yale New Haven Hospital and the neighboring Children's Hospital. Although the sculpture is in a busy area, many people often stop to admire the sculpture, arrested by its beauty. One cannot help but look at it and see the beautiful image of a mother and her sleeping child. This image is reminiscent of many works of art of the Madonna and baby Jesus. It is calming. To me, it evokes sleep's embrace of those who are exhausted.

A statue stimulates several senses that a painting cannot. *Caring* is 3-dimensional; one can walk around it, one can touch it, and one can see it at different times of the day when changes in lighting elicit different feelings. It is clear from the polished spots on the sculpture that many have caressed the young girl's cheek and the mother's hand. And although we think of a statue as static, this one communicates motion. The front legs of the mother's chair are raised, and it becomes apparent that she is rocking her child.

In February 2015, I was fortunate to communicate with Bruno Lucchesi and ask him about *Caring*.

Kryger: What thoughts were you trying to convey with the work?

Lucchesi: I was trying to capture a mother and child's day after their shopping, doing daily chores, and having fun together. The sculpture shows this mother exhausted, embracing and comforting her daughter, while the daughter is sleeping, forming a unit of tenderness.

Kryger: What emotions do you hope someone seeing it would feel?

Lucchesi: Well, I always hope that people like and are moved in some way when they see my work. And as far as how my works are received, I believe and hope that an individual's beauty of human spirit will relate in different positive ways to my work.

Kryger: Are there interesting aspects (technical or artistic) in the creation of this work?

Lucchesi: I liked tilting the chair, so that the front legs were not touching the floor, giving a sense of rocking in order to help the daughter sleep. There are details like one of the mother's sandals was taken off because her feet hurt from walking around so much. There is also a shopping bag hanging on the back of the chair, which I made as a visual depiction of this mother's day's work.

In this sculpture, Lucchesi captures a precious moment between an exhausted mother and her darling daughter, both resting after a long day. There is not much sweeter than sleeping in a loved one's embrace.

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