

Raoul Hague

Dates: 1904-1993

Biography: Raoul Hague was born “Haig Heukelekian” in Constantinople, Turkey. Haig attended Roberts College Preparatory School where he learned to speak English. In 1921 the Heukelekian family moved to Egypt while Haig travelled through Marseille, Paris, Le Havre and New York on his way to college in Ames, Iowa. Haig left school after only one year and moved to Chicago where he befriended students from the Art Institute and made his living through odd jobs. While working as an usher at the Opera House, Haig met a woman named Maria with whom he had a tango act with the local vaudeville circuit. Under Maria’s influence, the young man changed his name to Raoul Hague. In 1928, Hague moved to New York City and started taking classes at the Art Students League. He was introduced to carving in stone by John Flannagan, and met artists Arshile Gorky and Willem de Kooning. At this time, Hague developed his signature carving style; namely stone or wood female figures with juxtaposed rough and polished surface. The artist became an American citizen in 1931 and worked on the Federal Arts Project of the Works Project Administration from 1935 to 1939. One of Hague’s sculptures was exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art exhibition in 1933. Around this time, he began to visit Woodstock, including the Maverick Artists Colony. Hague became close friends with Hervey White, founder of the Maverick Colony, and when the young artist was drafted in 1941, he stored his sculptures in White’s Woodstock cabin. After his service, Hague returned to the Maverick Community in Woodstock. He bought Hervey White’s cabin and became friends with Philip Guston and Bradley Walker Tomlin who also lived and worked in the small town. The artist died in Woodstock in 1993.



http://raoulhaguefoundation.org/bio_chron1.html