

Marc Mellon: THE SCULPTOR BEHIND THE BUST OF NOBEL LAUREATE ELIE WIESEL & KEN BEHRING AND THE ICCUSA CELTIC BALL MEDALS

When sculptor Marc Mellon was commissioned to create the bust of philanthropist Kenneth E. Behring, the artist gladly took up the job and shipped his modeling stand from Connecticut over to California to work directly with Behring. The finished product was unveiled during a ceremony and now stands on the National Museum of American History's second floor. Behring donated \$80 million to the museum in 2000 and consequently paved the way for major building renovations and some of the museum's most popular exhibits.

Ken Behring's life is literally a Horatio Alger story; in fact, he is recipient of the Horatio Alger Award For Overcoming Adversity to Achieve Success from the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans. Born to a hardscrabble life, through hard work and vision he became a successful car dealer, and then a successful developer in Florida, California, and now in China. An avid classic car collector, he established the Blackhawk Museum in Danville CA. Also in Danville is world headquarters for the Wheelchair Foundation, which has gifted over 865,000 wheelchairs to the indigent, globally, since 2000.

Ken's philanthropy includes major gifts to the Smithsonian Institution, the American Museum of Natural History, and the National Museum of American History, the naming of which now includes Kenneth E. Behring Center. He is also sponsor of the The Kenneth E. Behring National History Day Contest. The contest is named for Mr. Behring in recognition of his support of NHD. His bust at the museum, which captures his ebullient smile, recognizes him as Businessman, Patriot, and Philanthropist.

Elie Wiesel is internationally recognized as a writer, teacher, and human rights activist. Recipient of the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1986, his other awards include the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the U.S. Congress Congressional Gold Medal. The author of over fifty books, his book *Night*, documenting his personal experience of the Nazi death camps, is required reading for students around the globe.

He is Founding Chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and recently received their highest award, The Inaugural United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Award. In order to honor Wiesel's extraordinary vision and moral stature, which not only created the Museum but inspired a worldwide movement of Holocaust remembrance and education, the award has now been named the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Elie Wiesel Award.

Along with his wife Marion, the Wiesels have established the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity. The Foundation's mission, rooted in the memory of the Holocaust, is to combat indifference, intolerance and injustice through international dialogue and youth-focused programs that promote acceptance, understanding and equality.

Marc Mellon is one of America's foremost representational sculptors, well known for his portrait busts, commemorative statues, and other works in bronze exploring the worlds of dance, sport, and family life. Individuals who have been recognized and honored with Mellon bronze portrait busts include Pope John Paul II, President George H.W. Bush, President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan, and Nobel Peace Prize recipient Elie Wiesel. Athletes Michael Jordan, Mickey Mantle, Arthur Ashe, Billie Jean King, Chris Evert, Andre Agassi, and Danica Patrick, are amongst the numerous athletes honored with Mellon sports bronzes. Dance world legends Ms. Agnes de Mille and Ms. Cynthia Gregory have been recognized with Mellon dance bronzes, as have entrepreneurial visionaries Steve Wynn and Ted Turner. Mellon's design for the obverse of the Official 2009 Presidential Inaugural Medal, featuring a portrait relief of Barack Obama, was chosen by the Presidential Inaugural Committee. In October 2009 Mellon's 8' high bronze statue of George Eastman was dedicated on the University of Rochester's Eastman Quadrangle. Over the past 35 years Marc Mellon has created numerous commissioned works for universities, medical centers, foundations, corporations, and private individuals across the United States.

As an old-school classicist with broad interests, Mellon's commissioned work spans a number of categories, notably including:

- Portrait Busts
- Commemorative Statues
- Bronze Figurative Fountains
- Portrait Reliefs
- Bronze Medals
- Sports Bronzes
- Dance Bronzes
- Family Group Bronzes
- Major Annual Awards, including Sports Trophies and Foundation Awards

Marc has also designed the medals for the ICCUSA Celtic Ball Awards over 15 years now. For more information, please visit www.marcmellon.com

Below: Bust of Kenneth E. Behring, with the Behring family, Danville California. Commissioned by the Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History. Unveiled June, 2011.



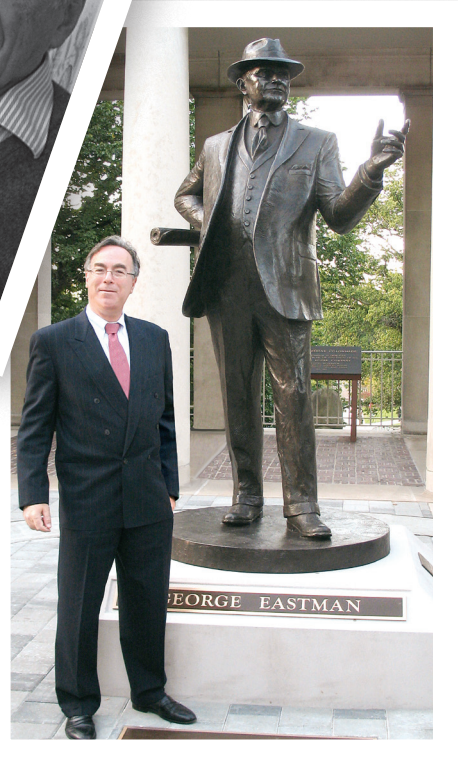
Marc Mellon on ladder, sculpting the statue of George Eastman for the University of Rochester



ICCUSA award



Elie Wiesel with portrait bust by Marc Mellon



Sculptor Marc Mellon with George Eastman Statue, University of Rochester