

## Chaim Gross

Chaim Gross (1904-1991) is considered among one of the greatest of Twentieth Century figurative sculptors, and his graphic work is also highly celebrated. A native of Austria, Chaim Gross emigrated to the United States in 1921 where he began studies with Robert Laurent and Elie Nadelman. His works can be seen in every major American museum collection and at The Chaim Gross Studio Museum in New York.

Well known for his direct wood carvings of circus performers, animals and the female form, Chaim Gross worked in a combination of traditional and tribal/folk styles. Gross began to focus heavily on his heritage and Judaic themes after the terrible events of World War II.

Today, it is clear that his interest in the human form was used to create more than simple sculpture. Every curvature and graceful stroke helped ensure that the viewer was and will continue to be awed with his unique style. By simplifying and omitting details, his sculpture is a celebration of joy, love and humanity.

For more than sixty years Chaim Gross's art has expressed optimistic, affirming themes. His acrobats, cyclists, and mothers and children convey joyfulness, exuberance, love, and intimacy. This aspect of his work remained consistent with his Hasidic heritage, which teaches that "only in his childlike happiness is man nearest to God."

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