## An Analysis of Mentors, an Abstract Sculpture by Aristides Demetrios

Mentors is an abstract sculpture located in the center of the Luria-Towbes Fountain Plaza at Santa Barbara City College. Aristides Burton Demetrios In 2002 won the "Santa Barbara Beautiful Award" for the most beautiful work of public art for the sculpture, the bronze fountain "Mentors", overlooking the ocean on the campus of Santa Barbara City College -it serves as the focal point of the West Campus landscape- is a masterpiece of beauty and mastery of technique, with a powerful and metaphorical message.

Aris Demetrios as he is known has been creating and fabricating sculptures, whose meaning is a duet between the artist and the viewer. Private collectors have commissioned their homes and clients his bold fountains, sensual bronze figures, or lyrically colored painted abstracts, he is also greatly admired by for his public works.

Whether creating gargantuan public sculptures 92 feet high or working on a modest 40" stainless steel model, or sculpturing in bronze or dabbling with paint, Aris Demetrios has moved between figurative and abstract pieces artfully. Demetrios celebrates with a unique boldness unseen among artists of the early twenty-first century. He demonstrates a complete mastery of the formidable technical and aesthetic values of large scale sculpture making.

The Mentors sculpture, like the sea not far away, calls to the students a commitment to life-long learning, where Lecturers and student play mentor to one another. Artists are not always the best spokespersons for their lifestyles, but Aris Demetrios has shown to be an exception. "To me, that's the good life: to live with the dignity of the creative process and to grow that space in the middle where all the important spheres—those of the client, the artist, and the surroundings—overlap." He says.

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