

*Simplicity of shape does not necessarily equate with simplicity of experience.*

Robert Morris

*My object in painting pictures is to try and move the senses by giving an intensification of reality.*

Lucian Freud

*My aim is always to get hold of the magic of reality and to transfer this reality into art, to make the invisible visible through reality. It may sound paradoxical, but it is, in fact, reality which forms the mystery of our existence.*

Max Beckmann

Ronald Edens is a man of few words. He does not enjoy talking about himself, not because he has something to hide, but because he finds other matters more important. For example, art. Yet, he refrains from saying too much about (his) art either. Not because he wouldn't have anything to say about it, but every word about it would not do justice to the sculpture, the interaction between the art object, the space in which it is presented, and furthermore jeopardize the perception of the viewer. However, even if only for a brief moment, Ronald Edens would like to share something about himself, his inspiration as an artist, and what moves him as a person and as an artist. The text below is a shortened version of his discussions with Jeroen Berkhout.

Ronald studied art history for a short time at the University of Amsterdam (foundation-year certificate). Additionally, he studied to become a graphic designer at the Grafisch Lyceum in Amsterdam. From his work as a graphic designer, he continued to pursue his passion, visual arts. Inspired by art movements such as PopArt and Minimal Art, he started to work with simple materials, in this case wood that he collects on the streets of Amsterdam. The terms 'basic' and 'raw' are applicable here. The two-dimensional aspects in his figurative work – even though they are not without relief – has a strong *trompe l'oeil-effect*, while it addresses the concept of color and space together with the three-dimensional work.

Edens themes are derived from fashion, advertising, everyday images, and trivial objects. The 'wood-couture' series offers a new perspective to the fascination with the brand culture in the latest fashion trends. His abstract works, on the other hand, are simpler and have a more geometrical design. They form a quest on how to incorporate playfulness, and dynamics into repetitive forms and colors.

All of the above is both true and untrue. The essence of all the work of Ronald Edens is, above all, a remedy of imagination against boredom, as is the case with Max Beckmann (see the quote above), whom he greatly admires, by creating a tangible dream in space, color, form, texture, material, reality, and transcendence.

What do we see when we look at a work of Edens? A two-dimensional ornament, mosaics of colored stray waste wood, for which a fret saw was used? Or a three-dimensional challenge to move past daily boredom, to enter the gate of the tangible dream, and challenge our perception of space and reality; to change, fuse, to enter a fourth dimension, as it were? The choice is up to the eye and mind of the observer, in which, as always, encompasses the perception of delight, boredom, beauty, and horror.