

North Dakota Museum of Art

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The North Dakota Museum of Art is hosting wood and stone sculpture artist Zoran Mojsilov's exhibit *The Power to Wake Up the Stones* June 30 – August 30, 2009. [Zoran Mojsilov](#), a 91-page hardcover Museum publication highlighting the career of Mojsilov, has just been released in conjunction with the exhibit. The book is available on-line at www.ndmoa.com. This is Mojsilov's second solo exhibit at the North Dakota Museum of Art.

It seems Zoran Mojsilov, a Serbian born and raised in Belgrad, Yugoslavia, was born an artist. At a young age, Mojsilov found himself drawn to making things. He became a toymaker for the neighborhood children at the age of two. By the time he entered his teens, he already understood that he wanted to be an artist, focusing his craft on carved wood. He studied art in Yugoslavia at the University of Belgrade from 1975 to 1979. He moved to Minneapolis in the mid-1980s where he worked as a carpenter. In 1990, Mojsilov opened his first solo museum exhibition of drawings and wood sculpture at the North Dakota Museum of Art. By 1995, granite fieldstone became Mojsilov's next best material to combine with wood or to enclose with steel.

The knowledge of how to incorporate sticks and stones into contemporary sculpture came from his past. According to the artist, "The direct handling of raw materials by villagers in rural Serbia is another influence on my work. When assembling combinations of wood, stone, and steel, I choose materials that are right out of the ground/ quarry, steel scrap yard, or the mill's rejected wood pile. The idiosyncrasies of these materials inspire me to combine them."

The exhibit, entitled *The Power to Wake Up the Stones*, features stone, steel, and wood sculptures as well as charcoal studies of the sculptures. Museum curator, Laurel Reuter states, "Mojsilov's art is neither for the timid nor those who prize craftsmanship, sleek design, and fine finishes. Rather, this artist traffics in awkwardness, in precarious balances, in authority born of strength, and in power born of wisdom."

Mojsilov's work began to receive recognition when he was awarded the Paris Gallery Centrale Gold Medal Award for sculpture in 1985. He has been awarded numerous fellowships since that time. His exhibitions have appeared throughout the Midwest and in Pennsylvania, New York, California, Arizona, France, Taiwan, and the former Yugoslavia. The North Dakota Museum currently houses three of his "Couch Potatoes" at the southwest corner of the sculpture garden.

The North Dakota Museum of Art is located on Centennial Drive on the University of North Dakota campus. The Museum hours are weekdays from 9 am to 5 pm and weekends from 1 am to 5 pm. The Museum Shop is open during these hours. There is no general admission for viewing exhibitions, visiting the Museum Shop or the Museum Café.