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Art Talk airs Tuesdays at 6:55 PM
on KCRW 89.9FM

January 28, 2004*

***This is the revised and final text of this week's Art Talk program to correct a factual error. Please note that the show was pre-empted last night and will air instead tonight at 5:55pm.**

**JOEL SHAPIRO AT L.A. LOUVER
ED MOSES AT CHRISTOPHER GRIMES**

I used to take out-of-town guests on a sightseeing tour of L.A., saving the best for last. The Creative Artists Agency, built by I.M. Pei for the once all-powerful Michael Ovitz, stands on the corner of Wilshire and Little Santa Monica. In my opinion, it's a more refined example of Pei's architecture than his better-known East Wing of the National Gallery in Washington.

Once upon a time, Mike Ovitz was a major contemporary art collector in Hollywood, and the lobby and offices of his building were turned into a powerful showcase to display his collection. The über agent and his collection are gone, but two major artworks remain in the lobby as a reminder of the days of glory. Roy Lichtenstein's huge mural still dominates the entrance, and to the right of it is an excellent bronze sculpture by Joel Shapiro - a perfect example of his trademark style - an abstract, minimalistic distillation of the human body to its basic geometric forms. There is a palpable sense of struggle emanating from this sculpture, as if it's trying not to lose its precarious balance.

To see what this major American artist is up to these days, go to L.A. Louver Gallery, where his latest bronze and wood sculptures occupy both floors. Most of the sculptures remind me of graceful ballet dancers balancing on one leg with torso and arms eloquently moving through space, expressing subtle emotions within a limited range of movements. My favorites are the large and small bronze pieces cast from roughly