

JOEL SHAPIRO FIVE RECENT SCULPTURES

21 July - 27 August 2011
 Opening Reception:
 Thursday, 21 July, 6-8 p.m.

Venice, CA -- L. A. Louver is pleased to present an exhibition of recent bronze works by **Joel Shapiro**. Five intimate sculptures will be exhibited in the first floor South gallery. These works will be complemented by a large (over 9-foot high) sculpture in L.A. Louver's open air "Skyroom."

Shapiro's sculptures are figurative... the sculptures "figure" the artist's internalized experience, both sensory and emotional.

----- *Richard Shiff*



*untitled, 2005-2009, bronze, 51 1/4 x 20 3/4 x 23 1/8 in.
 (130.2 x 52.7 x 58.7 cm)*

Shapiro's bronze sculptures suggest reductive figures of elegant gesture and energy. The forms convey movement: they bend, twist, pivot, stretch, or turn inward upon themselves. Four sculptures will be presented on pedestals; a fifth will be attached to the wall. Expressive and expansive, each possesses an interior tension and force. Seemingly simple shapes are transformed when married together. In these recent works Shapiro employs an alluring range of patinas, from deep gold, to a rich, burnished brown. The exhibition will provide the opportunity to examine and compare a range of form, surface and patina in an intimate environment.

Concurrently on view in L.A. Louver's "Skyroom," Shapiro's *Untitled, 2005-2006*, is a vitally dynamic form that conveys the impression of a figure that has propelled itself from on high into the gallery, where it momentarily balances in space.

Since he first began showing in the early 1970s, Shapiro has been the subject of over 150 solo exhibitions and retrospectives worldwide. Significant early traveling museum exhibitions include *Joel Shapiro: Sculpture and Drawing* at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, London (1980); a major mid-career survey organized by the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, (1982-84); *Joel Shapiro*, an exhibition of drawings and sculpture, that originated at the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (1985-86); *Joel Shapiro*, organized by IVAM Centro Julio Gonzalez, Valencia, Spain (1990-91); and *Joel Shapiro: Outdoors*, the first major outdoor exhibition of the artist's bronzes that was co-organized by the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City (1995-96). In 2005, his work was seen in *Correspondances: Joel Shapiro/Jean-Baptiste Carpeaux* at the Musée D'Orsay, Paris, France, and recently premiered a new series of suspended sculptures at Museum Ludwig, Cologne, February 26 – September 25, 2011. A forthcoming exhibition of Shapiro's suspended works will be installed at the Rice University Art Gallery, Houston, Texas in January 2012. In addition, Shapiro's work has been exhibited regularly in prestigious international group shows including the Whitney Biennial, New York (1977, 1979, 1981 and 1989); Documenta, Kassel, Germany (1977 and 1982), and the Venice Biennale (1980). Joel Shapiro was elected to the Swedish Royal Academy of Art in 1994, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1998. In 2005, France awarded Shapiro the Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts and des Lettres. Shapiro's work is included in numerous public and private collections worldwide.

Concurrently on view in L.A. Louver's North Gallery

Jason Martin: *Near by Far*

A series of new monochromatic pigment paintings.