3-2014

The Hand in Art: Hand of Hope

John S. Taras, MD

Thomas Jefferson University

Let us know how access to this document benefits you

Follow this and additional works at: https://jdc.jefferson.edu/orthofp

Part of the Orthopedics Commons

Recommended Citation
https://jdc.jefferson.edu/orthofp/62
As submitted to:

*The Journal of Hand Surgery*

And later published as:

*The Hand in Art: Hand of Hope*


John S. Taras, MD

Figure 1. Hand of Hope (c. 1970).

Figure 2. Bear and Cub (1957).


The “Hand of Hope” (Fig. 1) statue was commissioned for display in the street-level lobby of my practice, The Philadelphia Hand Center, by its founders, James M. Hunter, MD, and Lawrence H. Schneider, MD. The work became a hallmark of the practice’s former Walnut Street location as well as a recognizable feature of its neighborhood.

After a sojourn of several years residing next to Thomas Eakins’ portrait of the operative theatre in “The Gross Clinic,” at Thomas Jefferson University, the sculpture has returned to grace our office’s lobby in the historic Benjamin Franklin Hotel.

The esteemed Philadelphia sculptor, Joseph Greenberg, created the “Hand of Hope.” Regarding his works, he has said, “But you can’t say that the most important thing is to be different. The most important thing is to be good.” Perhaps the artist’s most recognizable sculpture is one enjoyed by generations of Philadelphians and their children at the Philadelphia Zoo, the “Bear and Cub” (Fig. 2).
From the Thomas Jefferson University; the Division of Hand Surgery, and The Philadelphia Hand Center, Philadelphia, PA.

Received for publication October 10, 2013; accepted in revised form December 18, 2013.

No benefits in any form have been received or will be received related directly or indirectly to the subject of this article.

Corresponding author: John S. Taras, MD, The Philadelphia Hand Center, PC, 834 Chestnut St., Suite G-114, Philadelphia, PA 19107; e-mail: jstaras@handcenters.com.

0363-5023/14/3903-0024$36.00/0

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jhsa.2013.12.022

J Hand Surg Am. r Vol. 39, March 2014