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Dennis Leon at Kraushaar Galleries, New York

By Hilton Kramer

This exhibition marks a step forward in the development of Mr. Leon's sculpture – not a step reflecting great originality, to be sure, but one that marks his assimilation of some current and powerful sculptural ideas. The work that dominates the show – *Entelechy 1*, an enormous bronze structure, composed of cast bronze arcs and rectangles that spread across the floor space with a horizonlike reach – is a forceful essay into the realm of Anthony Caro and some of his English followers. But where the latter have adopted color as an integral component of their sculpture, Mr. Leon prefers a more old-fashioned “rich” waxy surface for the bronze components of his structures. He is thus attempting a kind of synthesis between the new sculptural syntax and the older modes of surface expressiveness. Though something of a compromise, then, between the new and the old, the work is nonetheless impressive as an initial venture. The small polished bronze studies suggest that a less romantic, more impersonal surface might, after all, prove to be a stronger expressive aid to the artist's bold forms.