Marianna Pineda, Eve Celebrant, 1991
bronze, 78 x 38 x 13 inches
Museum Purchase, Frederick P. Walkey Fund, Gift of the Stephen and Sybil Stone Foundation, and Gift of Harold Tovish and Judi Rotenberg, 2001.75

Nick Capasso, curator
Pineda’s Historical Significance
Marianna Pineda, in terms of the history of sculpture in the Boston area, is a very important figure. Not only was she a teacher for many years, she also was part of the Boston Expressionist Movement in the 1950’s. In fact, in the 1960’s, there were several different sculptures by Marianna Pineda that were on loan and displayed in the deCordova Sculpture Park. In the Park there is a continuum of work [by other artists] that begins in the early 1960’s and goes right up to the present. An aspect of the sculptural history is of course the human figure, which even despite the ascendency of abstraction in the mid-twentieth century, never really went away. And if you think of it in a longer historical perspective, is the basis for all sculpture. Marianna Pineda’s Eve Celebrant is an important part of this story we tell because it is an example of how a lot of sculptors in the 20th century who clung to the figurative tradition in a narrative way and in an expressionist way. It’s not done naturalistically, it’s done... the way her form and surface are treated are for the expressions of emotions and ideas, and not so much for the expression of physical reality.

Nick Capasso, curator
Placement of Eve Celebrant
Marianna Pineda’s Eve Celebrant is placed at the entrance to Alice’s Garden, which is a section of the Sculpture Park where we characteristically show smaller-
scale bronze work. Now there are many sites within the garden where we could have placed the statue, but we thought that by placing it by the entrance of the garden, it not only looks good there because you see it from across the lawn and approach it from a distance, it also underscores some of the meaning of the piece. Because if you look carefully at Eve’s gesture, she is holding her hand up in warning and she is also holding her other hand up as an offering. So she is both warning you and welcoming you at the same time. And that gesture is most appropriate for a threshold. And that’s why we put the sculpture at the edge of the space to underscore the narrative in the sculpture.

**Abigail Ross, Pineda’s former gallerist**

**Pineda’s Eve Series**

The *Eve Celebrant* Series was something she began in the late 1980’s. Eve she is picturing as the first woman. She started drawing a friend, and she became interested in the symbolic image of womanhood as embodied by Eve. As I understand it, she was very prolific at her drawings, her early studies, and early maquettes. She did small maquettes in ceramics, and then usually cast her work in bronze. She spent a lot of time getting the flow of a figure, blurring those lines of identity in the process of making a work. And one of the things that you notice in some of them is that those race identities that are sometimes clear have become blurred so when people look at this body of work there is a sense that everybody could find a way to put themselves into it.

**Abigail Ross, Pineda’s former gallerist**

**Pineda’s Artistic Inspiration**

She was interested in this notion of womanhood. Exploring it in the multi-faceted, sensitive way revealing the complexities of the pathways in life for a woman from being a young girl to becoming a mother through age, and doing so in a very forthright, confident, expressive and inspired, but also honest way. Her sculptures are almost like poems or odes to these different life stages. Particularly when she looks at the process of the pregnant woman, or the woman giving birth as she has in some of her work. She’s also talking about the birth of creativity, the birth of ideas, what it is for an artist to give birth, and I think, as it has been told to me, Marianna was a wonderful, wonderful mother. Loving intensely to her children, but her work really was her first priority and her first love. And I think that is expressed in the way that she takes such tender care to craft each one of these pieces.

**Mystery Family Tour**

You are looking at a sculpture by Marianna Pineda called *Eve Celebrant*. Listen and look carefully to explore who this bronze woman could be. Walk around this sculpture to see it from all sides. Who is this woman and what is she doing? It looks like she might be dancing or practicing tai chi. Try standing like she’s standing. How does it feel? Look at her body language. What might she be expressing to us through her pose? What can you tell about her through her clothes, her hair, and other features? Look for clues that might tell us who she is. What’s that in her hands? It’s a pomegranate. Yum! Pomegranates are a symbol of good luck and hope. Why
do you think she is holding the pomegranate that way? Now that you have really looked at this sculpture and thought about it, make up a story about who you think she is.