



Open Division 2007
By: Bob Sarnowski

This is my 26th year involved with the MMSI and the 27th show I've attended. I still anticipate that week in October just as I did way back when I went to my first MMSI show in 1981. And yes, I still get the same inspiration when the show ends just as I did back in 1981 too. This year's show did not disappoint me one bit. Come to think of it there has never been an MMSI show that did.

There were many fine exhibits in all divisions this year. However, I am here to report on the Open Division. I'll start with Mike Blank and his dio titled "Like Angels from Heaven". It depicts two winged hussars charging five unfortunate ground troops. Mike won this year's MMSI Best of Show as well as a Gold medal for his effort. Larry Peters' "Joan of Arc" was very well done. It showed her standing amongst ruins dressed in full armor. However, Larry won a Silver for a piece titled "A Fairly Tale". Bart Muller had a nice display of WWI Germans that earned him a Certificate. Bill Silk had some large scale figures on hand. Hulk Hogan ripping his shirt off earned Bill a Bronze medal. Another Bronze medal was given to Warren Judge for his scratch built "King Karl XII". This was one of Warren's best figures to date. Jon Harbuck had an interesting piece this year. "JOB" was its title. Jon received a Silver medal. Stephen Weibe earned a Certificate for his "Trumpet Major". Bob Davis & Steve Scott were winners of a Bronze medal for their collaboration of a US Navy Sailor bust titled "Humble Lord of the High Seas". John Long has been exhibiting for many years now with top notch figures. "Shift Change at #4" was the figure that earned John a Gold medal. Doug Cohen is always someone whose figures I tend to admire from year to year. His display called "Military Guy's" was superb. The judges however chose "Valmy, 1791" for the Gold. Doug pulled off a rare feat this year by getting Gold's in all three categories. Not to be outdone by Doug was our own Dan Tisoncik. Dan too received Gold medals in all three divisions. Dan also was named the 2007 Chicago medalist. Congrats Dan.

Tom Karnas from Canada had a WWII German Tiger tank accompanied by five German soldiers titled "Hunting for Ivan". Tom took Silver for his endeavor. Anyone coming to our show or any other US show for that matter has to know Fletcher Clement. You don't really need to look at the info card to recognize his work. Fletcher had six original pieces entered this year. The judges chose "Marrakesh" to receive the Gold. Newly appointed Atlanta 2007 Grand Master Matt Springer (*an honor he shared with Kreston Peckham and Bill Chilstrom*) had an original bust of a US Army Paratrooper that had a remarkable resemblance to the actor who played Capt. Winters in the Band of Brothers movie. Matt won a Gold medal for this piece. A Bronze went to Dennis Miller for a Napoleonic dio called "The Wounding of Colbert". "Punitive Patton" was Bob Tavis' dio. It showed a young George Patton fighting off what I believe is Poncho Villa and some of his banditos. Very well done piece that earned Bob a Silver medal.

It's always good to see Bill Horans figures at our show. Bill had several of his earlier pieces on hand that were a treat for all to see up close. Bill also had a new piece in competition called "We

Will All Die Here". Bill won Gold for this little vignette. Being a baseball fan one of my favorite pieces was Scott Primeau's "Babe Ruth" bust. An incredible likeness to the Yankee slugger. Scott was awarded a Gold medal his work. Kathi Bird had an incredible exhibit depicting a toy soldier shop titled "Oiseau's Petit Soldats". Kathi took home a well deserved Silver medal for this little gem. Another local, Jim Lyne took a Silver as well for "Saving the Colors. Since we're covering locals let me mention Noel Meyer and her Silver medal winning "Bourbon Street Sophie". Leo Slawski (*yep, another local*) took a Bronze for "Mountain Man". Congrats to all.