



"Plugged" by Dominique Labauvie

Dominique Labauvie's abstractions are us

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- By [Joan Altabe](#), St. Petersburg Art Examiner

The ways and means of metal sculptor Dominique Labauvie can be summed up as lines drawn in space and made to stand up. And for that, his work, particularly “Suspended Skyline,” brings to mind “Hang-Up” by the late sculptor Eva Hesse, who sought to erase the divide between painting and sculpture.

But the allusion ends there. While Hesse was intent on contrasting logic with the absurd, Labauvie’s work is neither logical nor absurd. In fact, it’s quite moving.

The shreds of steel that outline “Suspended Skyline” suggest a war-torn building. But the spindly steel construction can also have you think of the human condition. This is not unlike Alberto Giacometti’s stick-like figures that take after thin old men with brittle bones.

Reference to a war-torn building aside, “Suspended Skyline” can put you in mind of a war-torn person, as if the figure had broken out of a rusted cage that ripped off all the skin down to the bone. Stripped bare and see-through, Labauvie's work evokes a cadaverous figure.

But whatever you think, his work is unnerving and affecting.

This is not to say that there's anything self-explanatory about this work. When you get down to it, Labauvie's sculptures don't look like figures at all. They just make you think of them. More than that, they hint at figures that have lost their way.

Dominique Labauvie, Tampa Museum of Art, 120 W Gasparilla Plaza, through Jan. 16. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Mon. through Fri and until 9 p.m. on Thurs. 11 a.m. -to 5 p.m. Sat. and Sun. \$10 adults, \$7.50 seniors, military and Florida educators, and \$5 students over 6. Park next-door at Poe Garage. 813) 274-8130.