

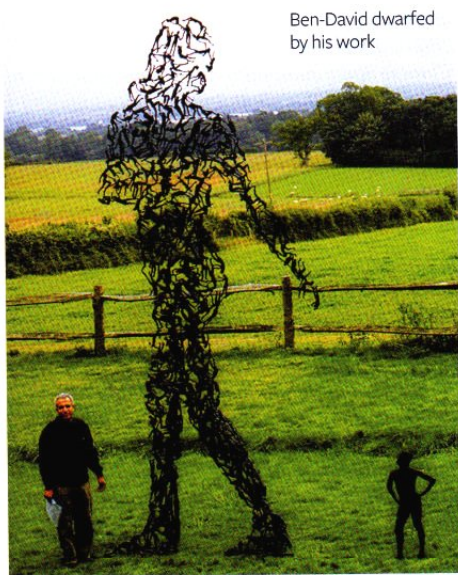
IN THE NEWS  
April 2008

# Tittle Tattle

PEOPLE WHO MAKE THE TOWN TICK

## Heavy Metal

SCULPTOR ZADOK BEN-DAVID'S WORKS ARE AS PRETTY AS THEY ARE DEEP



Ben-David dwarfed by his work

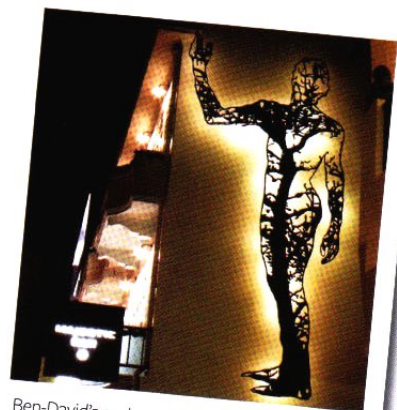
humans are sometimes driven by animal instincts and desires, while animals sometimes show human traits. My work is best at the moment of creation. I can't say that I get better with time." Indeed, Ben-David has gone through different phases with his art. Each phase is coherent and, with universal themes common among them, remains fresh and relevant today.

For the Portugal Biennale in July 2007, he presented an installation called *Black Field* made up of 3,000 cut-outs of flowering plants. The assemblage, painted black on one side and multiple colours on the other, won top prize. Ben-David conveys a simple message with the piece: "If the viewer makes an effort to walk around the installation, he will be rewarded with an explosion of colours. It's pretty much the same with life; if we make time to do good, we can expect something good in return." The same installation, with an additional 2,000 pieces, wowed audiences at an exhibition in Sydney in March this year.

In August, Ben David unveils a work commissioned for the Beijing Olympic Village. In autumn, some of his works go on sale at Sotheby's UK Private Sale of Monumental Sculptures.

**S**INGAPORE'S ART SET IS COMMISSIONING Zadok Ben-David, a Yemen-born artist based in Israel, to bring gravitas to their homes. His iconic sculpture, an oversized silhouette of a man made up of little figures of men, adorns an exterior wall of the New Majestic Hotel and Bar. Executed in flat metal sheet, the pieces plunge deep into subjects such as self-awareness and the passage of time. Many other meanings can be read from his works, especially his trees made of human figures, including that of humankind's relationship with nature.

The appeal lies in Ben-David's honest presentation. The craftsmanship and high decorative value of his work are not compromised by his desire to convey deeper meanings. In his series on animals and humans, he raises questions of identity: "I used animal figures to indicate human conditions of fear, longing, love and hope. You can also say that



Ben-David's sculpture outside the New Majestic Hotel



Singapore Tatler Magazine cover April 2008