

GIVE ME YOUR HANDS:

The Legacy of the Barre Sculptors and Their Stone

A photographic exhibition by Leslie D. Bartlett

Successive waves of master stone sculptors, carvers, and quarrymen came to America during the late 1800s and early 1900s. This photography exhibition documents their lives, their craft, and the plight of some of the immigrant master stone sculptors who have labored with the granite stone from the quarries of Barre, Vermont. The photographer's gaze moves from quarry face to human face, from artist and workshop to artistic creation. These men and women brought out the stone, and then turned Vermont's famous hard granite into useful structures or pieces of artistic beauty.

Leslie D. Bartlett has lived on Cape Ann, Massachusetts, for more than 40 years. He has spent the last decade exploring its unique blend of artistic and historic opportunities for photographic interpretation, focusing on images of stone quarries on Cape Ann and the famous "Rock of Ages" quarry of Barre, Vermont. Bartlett has exhibited his "Chapters on a Quarry Wall" at New York City's Park Avenue Armory; the New England School of Art and Design; Suffolk University; WGBH in Boston; the Rockport Art Association; the Vermont Granite Museum; and the Cape Ann Museum in Gloucester, Massachusetts.

Bartlett lectures at Halibut Point State Park each year. His work has been featured by the Trustees of Reservations, The Nature Conservancy, and Essex National Heritage Area. His quarry photography is a permanent part of the Rockport Art Association; Charles Luck (Formerly Luck Stone Corporation) of Richmond, Virginia; and the Vermont Granite Museum. He currently is writing a book titled Cape Ann Granite: Historic and Artistic Legacy.

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