TOOLS OF THE TRADE: DENVER ART MUSEUM EXAMINES THE UNUSUAL STUDIES OF ARCHITECT BRAD CLOEPFEL

When Brad Cloepfel, principal of Wolff Architects, was asked to design the Clifford Still Museum in Denver in 2006, he found his inspiration in Denver itself: "I want to show people the city and the history of the city and the architecture of the city," he says. To do this, he designed a museum that is not only a place to see art, but also a place to see the city and its history. The museum features a series of large, abstract sculptures that are inspired by the city's architecture, and a series of small, intimate galleries that are inspired by the city's art history. The result is a museum that is both a place to see art and a place to learn about the city.

In architecture's inner circle, Cloepfel has become known for his highly conceptual models and quick-pen drawings. He readily shows these clients to demonstrate that there is an essential part of his "wanting for a building." Noting these recent large-scale studies popping up all over with the world shows during his trip to the Clifford Still Museum in New York and Portland, Oregon, Sobel convinced Cloepfel to collaborate on an exhibition dedicated to his process.

"Clifford Still: Works From Clifford Still Museum Workshops," with more than 60 hundred sculptures and sketches never before shown publicly, has just opened at the Denver Art Museum, conveniently located steps away from the Still Museum. (The exhibition travels to the Portland Art Museum in June.)


The museum opens to the public on June 6th, and will feature more than 100 of Still's works, including paintings, sculptures, and drawings. The exhibition is designed to give visitors a sense of Still's process, from the initial sketches to the final works. The museum also features a number of other exhibits, including a retrospective of Still's work and a series of lectures and discussions with artists and curators.

draw the image of the building