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## Artist Statement for *Cylinder in a Prism* (1980, bronze, 26 x 4 x 4 ft.) Relocation, Massey Circle, Vanderbilt University

Public sculpture, when abstract, invites reflection on the human encounter with Otherness. The sculpture requires us to give pause, inspires a shift in perspective and, as such, pays homage to the humility that is fundamental to all educational endeavors.

*Cylinder in a Prism* commissioned in 1980 for the Vanderbilt University Medical Center, was created in this humble spirit: to present the passerby to slow down and take note, to become more mindful of the space the sculpture inhabits, to ask questions. What significance will viewers attribute to the form? The embrace is elemental: two geometric columns rising together symbiotically in a vertical dimension. This harmonious embrace was essential to the message of caregiving that the sculpture was originally designed to express.

Now, in its new location, Massey Circle, on Vanderbilt University's campus, the sentiment of care extends across a vast, outdoor space, abundant with movement and vitality. The patina of the bronze will change over time but the integrity of the material and its universal message promises to withstand the test of time.

*Cylinder in a Prism* honors the university's mission to celebrate the best in humanity and to unite its diverse community in the humility that underlies all innovative scholarship.

- Virginio Ferrari



