

B E V E R L Y H I L L S

# 90210

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## Beverly Hills 90210 Celebrates 2000

*Editor's Note:* "Beverly Hills 90210" has invited readers to share their thoughts, hopes and wishes for the new year. We, at "90210," wish all our readers a happy and healthy 2000.

By Ed Massey

Artist

At first glance, on the eve of the millennium, I am an anachronism. I am a sculptor and painter. In a high-tech world, my talents are anything but. Some might argue that I should retrain and join the technological revolution. Yet I see the next couple of decades as mine to seize. Art has a way of speaking to a mass audience, especially when it has a social context. That is my forum. At the turn of the century, Los Angeles is America's social laboratory. I deal in societal issues and the human condition; what better place for ideas?

Like everything else, there are changes in the art sphere. The structure of the art world is evolving. It is broadening. That is healthy. I believe the premier public policy debate concerning the visual arts, a private sector vs. government financing and the 1st amendment will become far more contentious, particularly when the economy cools. My suggestion: a good civics course and art history for all sides.

For myself, I'm excited about what's ahead. This is the year of Portraits of Hope — Project 9865 — the art therapy program for hospitalized kids and an American landmark in the making. It is a



year during which I will prepare the 2001 Berlin, Paris and New York simultaneous exhibitions of an installation focusing on the treatment of ethnic minorities. And it is the year that California students will use my works among others to gain an understanding of the American experience through a tremendous educational program called "youThink."

Another millennium anniversary. The visual arts have staying power. For expression, give me a brush and some plaster and let me create. I can't imagine any computer that generates that kid of passion — even if it is a revolution.