

“Ice and Snow Suite”, the new sculptures by Rosa Serra

The Catalan artist Rosa Serra, who in 1987 unveiled her “Olympic Suite”, a series of sculptures almost entirely dedicated to sports from the Summer Games, has completed the work with figures representing the sports disciplines of the Winter Games.

Since the creation of her *Olympic Suite*, Rosa Serra has continued to devote part of her production to the theme of sport. She has modelled many figures based on sport over the last few years, some in large format such as the “Athlete” in front of the National Physical Education Institute in Barcelona, or the “Lampadóforo” (light bearer) which presides over the monument erected in the Catalan village of La Escala, near to the beach where the Olympic flame landed for the 1992 Games in Barcelona.

More of her sport-influenced sculptures can be seen at the headquarters of the International Volleyball Federation in Lausanne, the High Performance Centre in Sant Cugat del Valles and in front of the Olympic hockey stadium in the town of Terrassa (see inset). After the Olympic Games in Albertville, President Samaranch commissioned Rosa Serra to produce sculptures representing the individual sports of the Winter Games.





The artist has modelled eight new disciplines - Alpine skiing (downhill), Nordic skiing, biathlon, figure skating, speed skating, ice hockey, bobsleigh and luge - which together with the ski jumps, which were included in the original *Suite*, complete the line-up for ice and snow sports.

STYLIST OF SHAPES

Expanding the "*Olympic Suite*" was a challenge for the sculptress, but one she succeeded in meeting. It was no easy task to represent the bobsleigh and the luge artistically, without merely producing a miniature copy of the real article, which would be more appropriate for a mechanical toy. She solved the problem by simplifying the shapes - a

characteristic feature of her work.

This streamlining, and a profound knowledge of the body-language of sport, the result both of study and intuition, are the basic elements of the sculptures. Cast in glossy bronze, with accessories coloured bright gold - skis, skates, masks etc. these medium-format pieces give an impression of force that is both reassuring and natural to the athlete. To this skill at simplification, Rosa Serra adds her own insight into sports movement. She has studied it with

passion and intuition. She brings her vision off brilliantly, managing to give an impression of speed to the downhill skier, the speed skater and the hockey player, of flight to the ski jumper, of elegance and rhythm to the pair of ice dancers, of stamina to the Nordic skier and acuity to the biathlon shooter.

RAMÓN BALIUS JULI



A SERRA IN TERRASSA

Rosa Serra's work 'Hockey' was installed in Terrassa on the occasion of the Junior World Cup of field hockey. This sculpture, which forms part of Serra's *Olympic Suite*, in which the artist dedicated each of the summer Olympic sports, was offered by the IOC in recognition of the effort made by the small Catalan city, which in 1992 welcomed the Olympic hockey tournament. The IOC President, Mr Juan Antonio Samaranch, was present at the installation of this sculpture with the president of the International Hockey Federation Mr Etienne Glitchitch.
