My sculpture is inspired, but not constrained, by mathematics (geometry). For about 20 years I’ve been investigating tetrahedral ideas for sculpture. My primary interest is in large scale outdoor work. I like the idea that the public and the site are very important considerations. All the pieces are fabricated by welding metal plates of the usual metals. The scale of my sculpture is from 60’ to pedestal size.

I find that the unique geometric relations intrinsic to the tetrahedron persist in the final sculpture, notwithstanding all the manipulations I carry out. The main factor, as I understand it, is that these 4-sided, 3-dimensional forms can be resolved without consideration of the rectilinear three axes of the square grid. Perhaps a corollary to this feature is that there are two characteristic qualities evident in most pieces: its difficult to anticipate a view other than the present point of view, and the views may change abruptly as one walks around the work.

The accompanying photographs show two different works. The wall piece theme is derived from a cross section of a tetrahedron. The large piece is made from stacking tetrahedra. It isn’t as active visually as most other works, but this is intentional. The sculpture is a Martin Luther King, Jr. Monument. Too much visual activity seems to detract from the monumental quality.
Wall piece, Arthur Silverman, aluminum, 19' × 14'.
Equitable Center, New Orleans, Louisiana.
Martin Luther King, Jr. Monument, Arthur Silverman, aluminum, 27′ × 7′ × 3\(\frac{1}{2}\)′. Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Arthur Silverman (New Orleans, Louisiana) is a retired surgeon who has been producing monumental steel sculpture for over twenty years. He was a speaker at AM92 and AM96. His work is based on an intense study of the properties of tetrahedra.