

Palazzo Nudo
Pittsburgh, PA
Alexandr Brodsky

It is at once mournful and hopeful: the ghostly remains of demolition rubble framed by construction scaffolding—a comment on the city's birth, death, and resurrection. Three years ago the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust approached Moscow-based artist Alexandr Brodsky and asked him to create a work for a plot of land it owns. Once the site of Doc Johnson's International House of Love Potions and Marital Aids, the corner lot had played host to two previous temporary sculptures.

Neither was as ambitious as Brodsky's. "During my first visit to the city, they took me to a warehouse and showed me all these pieces from old buildings that had been torn down," Brodsky says. There were chunks of terra-cotta facade from the Moose Lodge, which later made way for the 32-story Dominion Tower one block away, and fragments from the stately Pittsburgh Theater Building. "The Trust had managed to save some of these pieces, but they didn't know what to do with them," he says. "They said I was free to suggest any kind of work. But their special request was that I use a couple of pieces from the warehouse. I came up with the idea to use all of them." In August *Palazzo Nudo* will be dismantled, and a new work will be installed later in the year.

