Mark Mennin was born in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and grew up in New York City. After he graduated with a degree in history from Princeton University, Mark began to carve stone in Italy in 1984, and worked there for three years, executing commissions and preparing what would be the first of many solo shows in New York.

In recent years, the scale of his sculpture has evolved to include giant landscape and architectural works, often involving hundreds of tons of granite. He does all of the carving himself, and has produced a large body of work for both private and public collections, including a fountain and other installations at New York’s Chelsea Market and at Stanford University.

The Myers Sundial is a landscape-scale, granite sculpture that serves as a functionally accurate timepiece and artistic attraction. Created by Mark in 2011, the sculpture consists of 25 large, custom-shaped “digit” stones and a 9-foot high “gnomon.” The upper edge of the gnomon casts the shadow that is used to tell time. Hours are indicated by colored inlays in the stones. While everyone can enjoy the artistry of the Myers Sundial, the functionality of the timepiece introduces a complexity that requires explanation, provided in an interpretive sign next to the sundial and a brochure available in the H.O. Smith Botanic Gardens.