

LORENZO QUINN  
REACHING FOR GOLD  
ASPIRE, THE ACADEMY FOR SPORTS EXCELLENCE,  
DOHA, QATAR

During the inaugural speech the Emir's son, His Highness Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad al-Thani, described the academy's national importance: 'ASPIRE is a new sporting landmark for Qatar. Where once was desert, there now stands a structure to support the dreams of aspiring athletes and the community as a whole. It began as a vision, a true centre of excellence in academics and sport, firmly placing Qatar on the sporting map of the world.... With the academy rests the reality of the dreams of so many young children to compete side by side as equals with the best sportspeople in the world.'

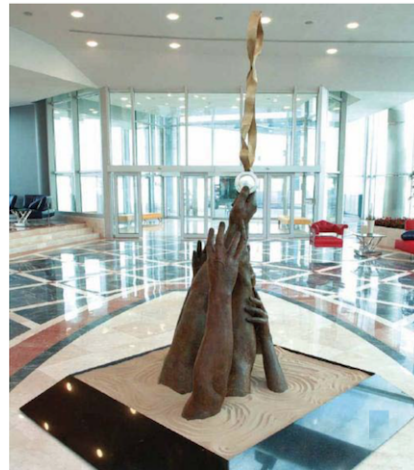
Quinn created a sculpture for the interior of ASPIRE to depict striving for excellence. Reaching for Gold is a pyramid of seven arms emerging from a base of sand, the hands straining towards a medal.

The hardest part of being at the top at times is staying there. It's a 24-hour effort to be the best you can be because the moment you let your guard down someone will step in to take your place.

I admire professional athletes' perseverance and dedication. I feel for their necessity to grow up fast and the relatively short span of time they have to achieve lasting glory. As an artist I am considered young at 40, but as an athlete I would be nearing the end of my career. However, when that magical moment comes, when everything clicks together and the constant training and suffering pays off and you win, then for a moment, which lasts a lifetime, you truly feel on top of the world.

- Lorenzo Quinn

*Reaching for Gold*  
ASPIRE, the Academy for Sports Excellence,  
Doha, Qatar  
Installed November 2005  
Bronze and brass  
273 x 120 x 120 cm  
Unique



**Lorenzo Quinn Public**

**Qatar Doha**

Qatar Doha

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