**Hans Holtkamp bio**

March 24, 1947 - November 11, 2021

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| Hans was a very quite man who didn’t command a lot of personal attention. I think he found such things uncomfortable. He studied at the U of S under the guidance of Bill Epp and went on to help Bill Epp with his more important commissions. He used to use Bill Epp’s foundry to produce his pieces, but after Bill passed away he went on to work with Joe Fafard’s foundry and became a lifelong friend. For years Hans worked on smaller projects, personal portraits and in the early 1990’s he started getting larger, more significant pieces to work on.Hans produced a number of life size sculptures, all in bronze of many notable Saskatoon and Saskatchewan people. He has been commissioned by communities and governments to depict a vision of community leaders that have made a difference. Many of these we walk past on daily walks such as Denny Carr, Fred Mitchell, John Diefenbaker as paper boy and Wilfred Laurier and Walter Scott at the Saskatchewan Legislature. After completing 'The founders’ in 2008, a twice life sculpture in bronze, he found his carpal tunnel was causing him issues. Applying the mass amounts of clay (The Founders took 650 pounds) took it’s toll, he decided to take up his other love - that of photography. As an artist he had an incredible eye for sophisticated colour schemes, image scale and an ability to simplify to capture not only the moment, but to draw out the essence of that moment. He joined the Saskatoon Camera Club and there he met a number of exceptional photographers that created a rich environment for him to learn the technical side of the camera. He was asked numerous times to judge photography shows and exhibitions and lecture on his photography. Hans travelled extensively, taking photos of not only Saskatchewan, but Canada and parts of Europe. Hans mentioned a trip he went on with his wife Lorna to Newfoundland when Hurricane Igor came up the coast. They arrived on a Sunday evening at Gross Morn and that night the little bed and breakfast house they stayed in danced on the rock from the wind - neither slept. But what pictures he got of that experience and he shared them openly when asked.  He would take off for over night trips in his van to the Sand Hills, Grasslands to Northern Saskatchewan in all kinds of weather. You can see more of this photography on his [www.Instagram.com/holt1](http://www.instagram.com/holt1)Here as a short rundown of Hans’ Local and Saskatchewan accomplishments. I am sure I have missed a few.• 'The Founders’,2008, John Lake and Chief whitecap (River Landing)• Life size sculpture of Fred Mitchell and daughter• Life size sculpture of Denny Carr (Spadina)• Walter Scott bust, Premier of Saskatchewan, (Saskatchewan legislature) • 2 life size Icelandic figures, Elfos, Saskatchewan• Gordie Howe statue where he worked on the head (Sasktel Place)• Ray Hnatyshyn worked jointly with Bill Epp• Numerous private portrait busts  |