

Hilary Clark Cole *(Canada)*

Canadian sculptor Hilary Clark Cole was born in Victoria, British Columbia and is a graduate of the Ontario College of Art and Design. She has lived and worked in Muskoka since 1971.

As well as having her metal sculptures in many private collections, she has created significant public sculptures over the years. Her works have featured in all previous IIW welded art photographic exhibitions.

She has won many awards for her sculptures, and she has been profiled on television programmes on the Life Channel, CBC and Global. She is a strong role model in the community and in 2002 won the first YWCA Woman of Distinction Award for Arts and Culture.

Hilary works mainly in hand-built welded steel artwork, which can be very small or very large, rough or smooth, monochromatic or colourful. In particular, they often reflect the importance of biodiversity related to her home country.

Her work has been described as “In the world of welding women, her creative spirit has no equal.....Lyrical and beautiful, infused with joy and humour, hard cold steel comes alive”

Hilary’s love of birds and love of steel is evident in her sculptures. She has found that certain birds lend themselves perfectly to the medium of steel, such as ‘The Crow’ and the ‘Common Uncommon Raven’. But this first exhibit “Tree Swallow and Young” was like making a piece of jewellery.

When she is building a large lifesize piece such as the “Grizzly Bears, Mother and Cubs”, she does a great deal of research and then creates a small version of welded steel which incorporates all that acquired information as well as the stance of the sculpture and the detail. She then has the maquette by her side as she works on the large one for measurements and for inspiration. This large sculpture took one year to complete.

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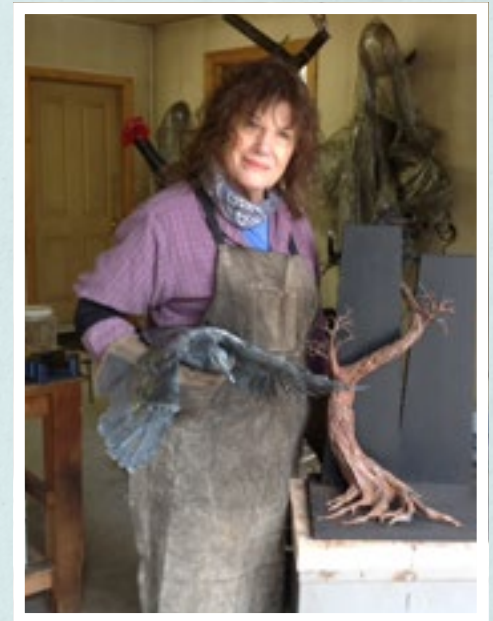


Exhibit “Grizzly Bears, Mother and Cubs”

The Grizzly Bears, Mother and Cubs, is a tribute to the place in Canada where Hilary was born, British Columbia.

It is a female grizzly, who is sensing danger, and has pushed her cubs to her flank, fiercely protecting them.

This sculpture is created of 1/8th inch Corten Steel plate, a steel alloy which rusts to a beautiful grizzly brown, but does not continue to corrode further.

In order to give this sculpture a true, ‘grizzled’ appearance, Hilary chose to cut the steel plate into individual hairs (a rough calculation suggests that she cut 40,000 pieces), and welded them, one at a time, to the skeletal frame of the bear. In the foreground of other photos on her website of her working on this sculpture, you can see the ‘maquette’, or model.

The exhibit is installed at ‘The Colonial, Hwy 12 and Manning Road, Whitby, Ontario”, and is accessible to the public.

Dimensions of Exhibit

Lifesize



Grizzly Bears, Mother and Cubs
Hilary Clark Cole



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