

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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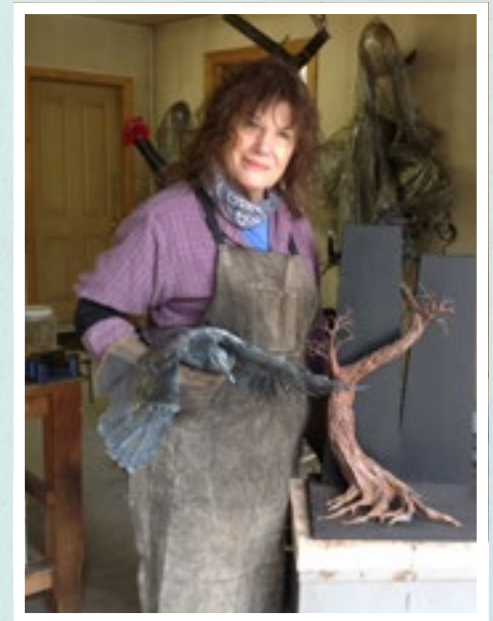


Exhibit “Tree Swallow and Young”

The focus of the piece is two little open-mouthed babies in the notch of the tree, competing for the dragonfly in their mother’s mouth.

Although the Tree Swallow was an extremely difficult challenge in this material, Hilary was determined to recreate the spirit of a delicate aerial acrobat, moving, not still. She knew that the steel, if handled properly, would allow her to interpret this subject.

The body of the mother bird is of steel rod, using a ‘drip’ technique to build up a surface, and then grinding down by hand to perfect the form, a lot of trial and error, but the only way to do it, although it took a long time to get it right.

She would wistfully leave her at night and come out the next day and know that she was still not ready for her wings. But, finally, the wings! Thin thin shards of steel feathers, cut to shape, welded with a tiny .02 tip, and then hammered, engraved, and torch coloured.

The nesting tree is made from sheets of steel sheet and plate. She distressed the steel and rusted it to give it a different texture and colour.

Dimensions of Exhibit

Lifesize



Tree Swallow and Young
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