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Newsletter of Pacific Northwest Sculptors

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Promoting the Art and Appreciation of Sculpture

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August-September 2009

Art is the Heart

of the Matter

PNWS Member Profile:

Stephan Seable

was born in Eastern Idaho in 1937. When I was four
our family moved to

SE Portland where my father found work in the shipyards. My mother loved culture and the arts and gave us much
exposure to the dance, music, and visual arts of the big city. I remem- ber drawing pictures of what we heard on
the radio about the war. I always felt like an artist. I attended Franklin HS and majored in art but also was active in
sports and drama. I even took

up adagio dancing and danced with the

Young Oregonian Traveling troupe for several years during high school

and beyond. This experience influenced the later creation of

a series of bronze adagio ballet figures. I also had a love of natural science and went to Linfield College as a
bio-science major hoping to combine art and science doing biological illustration. I transferred to the Museum Art
School in Portland where I could do illustration at the UC Medical School Anatomy Department while attend- ing
classes downtown. I took a sculpture class from Frederic Littman, and it was life changing. The art muse won out. I
fell in love with plastic media when I first dug my hands into clay and that love has never faded. I became an assistant
to Mr. Litt- man and worked year around in his studio workshop while finishing my B.S. in science and art through
Portland State. I learned the lost wax process from him.

After graduation I was accepted to study under Avard Fairbanks, an architectural

Accuser #1 by Stephan Seable

sculptor at University of Utah, but soon was drawn to BYU where I met my wife-to-be Kathleen Perona from the San
Francisco Bay Area. After we were married, I finished my Masters in Sculpture and Design. We then moved to
California where I taught art and science in the public school system. Those were the days of plenty in the field of
education. I had a foundry, forge, torches, burn-out ovens and kilns in my large work- shop room. It was a dream job if
you liked kids and art, and I did. I taught lost wax sculpture and jewelry as well as ceramics, printmaking, painting and
drawing to high school students. In my spare time I also taught in local art schools and colleges. I always had my toe
in science and taught anatomy and physiology, biology, marine biology and out-door survival over the
next thirty years. All this while we accumulated eight children.

I produced many commissioned works of art during this time. I often involved advanced art students or my children on
mural projects. During the holiday season my children would help me paint hundreds of Christmas windows. A

sampling of my art work in the Bay Area includes large graphic murals for several public schools; a relief sculpture for the city of Clayton City Hall; sixteen murals in treatment rooms in the Hayward Medical Center; a life-size bronze group for the LDS Temple in Oakland; and another life-size bronze of Major General John Hancock in Walnut Creek. I displayed my artwork in various galleries and shows and won several awards. For the past thirty years I have done portraits for bronze plaques of the inductees into the Steel Guitar Hall of Fame, these plaques are displayed at the Millennium Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri.

I retired from teaching in 1997 and have turned my time to art production, travel and humanitarian mission service with my wife.

Two of our college-age children joined us on a teaching assignment in Beijing, China in 2000. While there I painted some murals for the American Embassy in Beijing and also did a painting for the Foreign Affairs College. Our love of travel, art, and family keeps us going and has enriched our lives, and allowed us to meet artists and good people all over the world including China, Chile, Canada, Europe and the Caribbean. Over the past few years we have enjoyed living in Grants Pass where three of our children live with their families. Here, I have

Stephan Seable and [title?]

recently completed a relief mural in fiber-glass for Three Rivers Hospital, a bronze portrait bust, and I am currently working on a monument for a local community park. In the near future we will be living part of the year in Bay City, Oregon to enjoy the coast, other family members and to get more involved in the Portland art scene. It's good to be home in the Pacific Northwest. The innate desire to express my love of form, texture and color will keep me sculpting and painting for the remainder of my life. Family, art and God are my life's joys. View Stephan's sculpture and other artwork at www.stephanseableart.com. Contact Stephan at seable_art@yahoo.com.

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