

## Gary Kahle

### STAINLESS STEEL SCULPTOR

#### BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1942 in Oklahoma, where I grew up on a wheat farm northwest of Newkirk, OK. After high school and a few years farming I went to work for GE Engine Services located near Arkansas City, KS. While at GE I was trained to be a stainless steel welder. The eighteen years of welding experience on the job gave me the ability to incorporate design fluidity into a typically rigid material. I have lived in Kansas since 1963

During my first 35 years of life there was never any thought of becoming an artist, but some of my hidden creative talents began slipping out when I made custom car parts and other unusual things out of stainless steel in my spare time. As serendipity often influences the best ideas an industrial accident in 1977 sparked the motivation to change occupations. I was severely burned while on a field trip to Kansas City for GE. After 47 days in the KU Burn Center and another eight months at home recuperating there was lots of time to reflect on the need for a change. During this time a friend who is an artist and former art professor felt that my stainless steel creations showed artistic talent and he encouraged me to consider becoming a sculptor.

Since 1981 I have been devoting fulltime to creating stainless steel sculptures. Most of my sculptures are a fine line between realistic representation and the abstract expression. In some instances representing the commonplace uncommonly best describes my artwork. I enjoy watching people connect with my artwork while viewing it; if it elicits a response such as a smile or an outright laugh then I feel I have succeeded.

I have been selected and completed two *Percent for Art* projects, "IN MOTION" sculpture was installed on the outside wall of the new Department of Transportation office building in Lake City, FL and "FREEDOM OF FLIGHT" sculpture installed in the courtyard of the new Veterans Home in Glendive, MT. I was selected four times to show at the North American Sculpture Exhibition in Golden, CO. and was selected twice to show at the National Academy of Design in New York City, NY. Since 1982 I have participated and won honors in numerous juried competitions. My sculptures are represented in private and business collections throughout America and several foreign countries.

There is no chrome plating or casting involved in the fabrication of my polished stainless steel sculptures. Each piece is constructed from a flat sheet of stainless steel about 1/16" thick. The pieces are cut out and all seams welded together, then the hard work starts with grinding, sanding and buffing each sculpture to give it the high tech polished finish with reflective qualities and a lively fluidity.