

# Derek Rowe

Derek is a native Vancouverite with an early passion for the older decorative buildings of the city such as the Marine Building and Vancouver Sun building. Sculpture and painting have been his primary focus since a very early age, with his first stone carvings being done at age eight.

He trained in visual arts in a wide variety of media at Malaspina College and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from the University of Victoria. After a career in Aerial Photography, all attention and time was devoted to sculpture and the start up of *Renaissance Studio*.

Architectural sculpture creating public statues, custom decoration for private homes and commercial developments provided an opportunity to explore new cast materials and develop special molding and casting techniques. Over the years, his work has involved architectural design and engineering coordination to facilitate the implementation of complex large scale building projects such as *Shoal Point* in Victoria. Shoal Point is an award winning multi-phase development that includes over 14,000 custom designed decorative cast elements from simple patterned banding to large scale figurative brackets.

At the Renaissance Studio location, an art gallery devoted to promoting emerging artists and assisting art groups was created. The *Cement Plant Gallery* ran under the direction of Derek Rowe from its inception in 1995 until 2004. Derek served as the Director of the *Vancouver Island Sculptors Guild* for two years, and has coordinated art shows, including over forty different sculptors at the Cement Plant Gallery.

In 2004 the business was transformed to *Art Form Sculpture Studio* and relocated to a new setting in Victoria, taking on public art projects for the Cities of Langford and Surrey. In 2006, Loreto Bay Developments contracted Derek Rowe as Artistic Director to provide creative design and establish a local casting business. *Arte Solido* was established with local artisans trained in decorative sculpture.

Derek has since returned to Vancouver to consult with project developers and design new public statues. For the Canadian Military, a special sculpture was approved for the families of soldiers killed in action in Afghanistan. Recent projects include new public statue for the Victoria Public Library, Gaudy Branch.