

Biography – Joe Fafard



Joe Fafard, was born to French-Canadian parents in the small agricultural community of Ste. Marthe, Saskatchewan on September 2, 1942.

Graduating in 1966 with a Bachelors Degree in Fine Arts from the University of Manitoba, he went on to receive a Masters Degree in Fine Arts from Pennsylvania State University in 1968. He taught sculpture and pottery at the University of Saskatchewan, Regina Campus from 1968 to 1974 and he was visiting lecturer at the University of California where he taught graduate studies in the arts from 1980 to 1981.

Joe Fafard is a full-time artist and sculptor who currently resides on an acreage near Lumsden, Saskatchewan. His work has been on display in galleries and museums across Canada and abroad, including the United States, Great Britain, France and Japan. He has gained national and international acclaim for his work and has become one of Canada's most distinguished professional visual artists. To-date, his works have been displayed in 87 solo exhibitions and over 31 group exhibitions.

Insight and humour characterize his portraiture of family, neighbours, farm animals and famous artists. In the early 1970's, he concentrated on using clay as a medium for his sculptures but later shifted to bronze in 1985. His bronze works are displayed across Canada, with his "cows" becoming one of his most famous trademarks.

Mr. Fafard is renowned for being a leader in his profession. His outstanding contributions to the arts through his radical experimentation with both form and production have significantly raised the profile of both Saskatchewan and Canada on the national and international stage.

Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Fafard has been widely recognized. His awards include: the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977; Officer of the Order of Canada in 1981; the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada Allied Arts Award in 1987; honorary doctorates from the University of Regina, Saskatchewan in 1989, and from the University of Manitoba in 2007; the Saskatchewan Order of Merit in 2002; the National Prix Montfort in 2003; and the Lieutenant Governor's Saskatchewan Centennial Medal for the Arts in 2005. As well, he was named CTV Citizen of the Year in 2006 and received the Saskatchewan Arts Board Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007.

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