

## Biography / Gary Barnhart / Sculptor

Gary Barnhart was born in Ottawa, Canada in 1951.

Gary studied visual art at York University from 1971-1975. In his final year he was one of the first student artists to share exhibit space at the newly opened York University Gallery. From 1980-1982 Gary continued his studies at the University of Ottawa. Shortly thereafter he began a successful teaching career at the Ottawa School of Art which eventually led to the development of his own professional teaching studio, the Barnhart Fine Art Studios. Early influences on his work can be found in the art of Rodin, Moore, Hepworth, Arp and Noguchi. The Primitive Arts of the Pacific Southwest, sculpture from Central and South America and the markings and engraved symbols of Inuit Art from Canada's North still inspire and influence his work.

Gary has travelled extensively in Canada and Europe. While in the Yukon he did a series of engravings titled "Yukon Travels" and a series of pen and ink studies of Woolly Mammoth bones at the Dawson City Museum which became a major source of inspiration for his development as a sculptor. In Holland Gary had the privilege to work with the Dutch artists at the Print Shop in Amsterdam where he made a series of original stone Lithographs and also at the Grafisch Atelier in the Hague where he produced a limited edition of copper etchings and engravings.

Since 1971 Gary has participated in various Art Expos and Festivals, One Person Shows and Group Exhibitions. At the 1st International Art Festival in Montreal, Quebec he received the Best Artist Award granted by his peers. His work can be found in many private collections in the UK, Holland, the U.S. and Canada. In 2005 he competed for the prestigious position as Government Sculptor for the Federal Government of Canada where he ranked in the top 8 of 75 nation-wide applicants. Recently Gary has returned from a 3 week tour of Northern Italy where he exhibited 4 sculptures with Trevisan International Art at the Creative Energy Art Exhibition in Ferrara, Italy. While in Italy Gary made Florence his home base in order to study the Renaissance originals found in the Bargello and in the Accademia. New inspiration was found in the Etruscan sculpture, vases and funeral urns housed in the Archeological Museum.

Since returning to Canada he has received many new invitations and inquires from Europe and the United States. The Galleria MonteOliveto in Naples, Italy has offered to exhibit his work and partake of many diverse exhibitions. The Galerie Bohner in Mannheim, Germany has also offered exhibit space and new opportunities to participate in special events throughout Europe. Both galleries represent enormous potential for continued success.

Presently Gary is preparing new work for his spring exhibit at the Toronto Art Expo, April 14-17, 2011 and for the "Little Treasures" exhibition April 9-21, 2011 in Bologna, Italy for Trevisan International Art. In early 2011 Gary accepted an invitation from the Busacca Gallery in San Francisco U.S.A. and is now represented in the United States by the Busacca Gallery, an on-line virtual gallery which promotes and sells high quality International Art, Antiques and Art Objects.

Gary lives and works in rural Ontario near the Village of North Augusta. He and his artist wife Carolyn, maintain a 1880's reconstructed log home and studio on a 100 acre parcel of natural woodland, marsh and arable farm land. Their studios are open by appointment to the public and to visiting artists.

Gary may be contacted via: [www.barnhartfineartstudios.com](http://www.barnhartfineartstudios.com) / [www.trevisan-international-art.com](http://www.trevisan-international-art.com) / [www.busaccagallery.com](http://www.busaccagallery.com)

## Artist Statement / Gary Barnhart / Sculptor

I am a sculptor of stone. I seek the inner self when I approach the stone knowing it has a life of its own and it is my gift to release this ethereal image into the world of shape and form. My intent is to commune with the natural material of stone and to discover, through the creative process, the Essenic beauty of the unknown. Gary Barnhart / Sculptor

## Story Telling / Gary Barnhart / Sculptor

Each sculpture tells a story. Art evokes thought, emotion, levels of contemplation and opportunities for meditation. Sometimes the image lays on the surface revealing itself easily with little resistance to my efforts. Other times it is hidden forcing me to look beyond the obvious and to seek a "shape " that is unorthodox, finding beauty, harmony, proportion and artistic quality in the not so obvious places. Changes constantly take place and nothing seems coherent as the image confuses, rearranges and suddenly becomes a beautiful, magnificent work of art. Limits are only to facilitate a furthering of the image.

Sometimes the story is re-interpreted by someone after completion who finds a new or different essence/meaning to the work. Their insight or response reveals a personal experience due to the image. When you connect with the viewer in this manner it is work well done. Sometimes tears are expressed, memories are awakened or my interpretation is of no consequence as the viewer is in a world of their own with little thought as to my intentions.

