

**MUSKOKA ARTS & CRAFTS INC.**

# MUSKOX

A life-size, one-of-a-kind, hand-built welded Corten steel sculpture by

**Hilary Clark Cole, AOCAD**



In the world of welding women, Hilary Clark Cole's creative spirit has no equal. Lyrical and beautiful, infused with joy and humour, hard cold steel comes alive.

**Elene J. Freer**

**Executive Director**

**Muskoka Arts & Crafts Inc.**

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# MUSKOKA ARTS & CRAFTS INC.

where art happens!

It is a pleasure to introduce The MuskoX by Hilary Clark Cole, a Canadian sculptor working in welded steel.

This magnificent life-size sculpture is currently on display at the Chapel Gallery in Bracebridge, Ontario, Canada.

This, a study of a windswept Northern survivor, has caught the eye of everyone walking by and they engage with him frequently. As the Corten weathering steel has mellowed to MuskoX umber and black, curious hands have kept his eyes, nose and horn shiny, giving him more life than the artist could have imagined.

This marvelous MuskoX speaks of relentless wind. He speaks of powerful beauty, endurance and the elements that make him a recognizable symbol of our Canadian North. Strength, tenacity, weathering, all the characteristics of the very material he is made from. Nestled in his chest is a small stone from Iqaluit to ensure that wherever he eventually has a home, the tundra will always be in his heart.

I invite you to look through this catalogue and discover how this distinctively Canadian sculpture came to life and how to purchase it for your private, corporate or public collection.

Sincerely,



Elene J. Freer  
Executive Director



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## A CANADIAN WILDLIFE LEGACY

Hilary Clark Cole had a long-standing dream to create life-size outdoor sculptures that reflect the diversity of Canada's majestic wildlife. Corten steel made it possible.

A remarkable medium, Corten steel is a nickel-steel alloy that was developed for industry where strength and tenacity are required. It is commonly called 'weathering steel' as it rusts to a deep rich colour when exposed to the elements. The steel's main feature is that it will never corrode, thus making it a perfect material for permanent outdoor sculptures. This one-of-a-kind sculpture is hand-built of 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch welded Corten Steel plate.



The Muskox is the most recent sculpture in Hilary's Canadian Wildlife Legacy. He speaks of powerful beauty, endurance and the elements that make him a recognizable symbol of our Canadian North.

Being a resident of Ontario, Hilary created The Northern Ontario Bull Moose, which stands nine feet tall to the top of its rack. He steps out bravely in Don Mills Ontario, at the World Headquarters of Tilley Endurables.



Born in British Columbia, Hilary then produced Grizzly Bears, Mother and Cubs. The life-size female wheels to protect her cubs at AlertCare's The Colonial, in Whitby, Ontario.

The Wolves are universal creatures, the callers of the wild all over North America. They are now part of a private collection in Palm Desert, California.



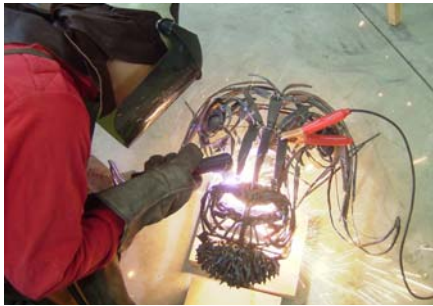
East and west, south and north, these sculptures each tell a story about the spaces they inhabit, and reflect Hilary's love of the wild things we share the world with.



## THE MAKING OF THE MUSKOX – Hilary Clark Cole

I had imagined creating a Muskox for many years, having great respect for their ability to adapt to the forbidding conditions of the Arctic Tundra.

Their distinctive long coats (qiviut) often touch the ground, to protect them from the cold. They are stocky, built close to the earth, actually smaller than most of us realize, because we have nothing but treeless terrain to judge their size.



Because of that bare landscape, with nothing to hide behind, their herd instincts are unique. When challenged by a predator, the males form a circle around the weaker females and babies, facing out, with huge formidable horns lowered and ready to defend. The males are the only individuals ever on their own, so I have chosen a full grown male as my subject; after all, he will always be one-of-a-kind.

Of course, I must research. The anatomy of a Muskox is not something that comes instantly to mind. But the spirit of the Muskox, 'Omingmak' or 'Bearded One' as the Innu call him, must be very clear.

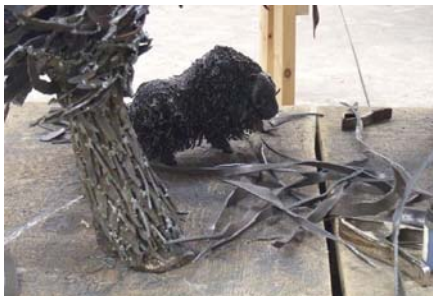


I use books to start my research, often children's books as they usually have the literal illustrations that I need. I read everything I can find. I use photographs wherever I find them and keep a large resource pile that I refer to constantly. I seek skeletal drawings and videos on the Internet. I seek out where I might actually see the animal in real life (in this case, two venues, Baffin Island and the Metro Toronto Zoo) to watch them move, and learn typical habits and behaviour so that I can crystallize a sculpture three-dimensionally in my head.



I began with a maquette, or scaled-down study model, which I created first in light mild steel in order to establish the anatomy, dimensions, habit, personality and message of the full-sized work. It is what I do each time I am about to tackle a large piece such as this. All my previous research goes into that small sculpture.

Then, using these relative measurements, I built a life-size skeletal structure using seamless heavy-walled pipe. I used large panels of Corten Steel to create big flat baffles inside the piece, so that one could not see through it, but also to give it strength from an engineering perspective. Then I created the hooves, solid, holding the ground, establishing territory.



I constructed the head up to a halfway point on the bench to get expression and detail. Then, I attached it to the body and continued to work on it in place. There were to be many subsequent corrections of the head, because as I built the horn (or 'boss'), the set of the eyes had to be repeatedly changed. As a result, this Muskox actually sports three sets of eyes, one over the other!





To counterbalance the weight of the head, I began the coat of the Muskox at the back and underneath, and then gradually (and slowly) welded the clumps of hair over the rest of the body. I used a MIG welder for the most part, switching to Oxy-Acetylene to refine some areas such as the nose, around the eyes, and parts of the ears and hooves.

The coat is created entirely of strips of steel of various lengths, cut with a plasma cutter, shaped, and individually welded into place. Sometimes I would complete a 5-inch square in a day, depending on the area I was working on and the size of the pieces. I lay underneath, sat beside and climbed on top, welding, welding, and welding. The pieces of hair range in size from ¼ inch square to 30 inches by 3 inches.

It took a year and a half to complete the sculpture.

Now as a sculptor, I have completed this work. I stand back so that you can see and feel what he is saying to you.



Each of my life-size sculptures has a heart. In the heart of The Muskox is a significant talisman, a small stone from Iqaluit so that the tundra will always be part of him, wherever he goes.





## DESCRIPTION

This one-of-a-kind life-size sculpture is hand-built of 1/8th inch welded Corten Steel plate.

Corten Steel is a remarkable medium. It is a nickel-steel alloy, developed for industry where its strength and tenacity are required.

A common name for it is 'weathering steel'. As it weathers, it rusts to a deep rich colour. Its main feature is that it will rust to a certain point, but never corrode. This makes it an ideal medium for an artist working in welded steel to create outdoor sculptures that last forever.



The coat is created entirely of strips of steel of various lengths, cut with a plasma cutter, shaped, and individually welded into place. The pieces of hair range in size from ¼ inch square to 30 inches by 3 inches.

Muskox stands 5½ feet tall, 5' wide and 8' long.

It weighs 1,600 pounds.

For display, it is recommended that it stand on an elevated knoll at least one foot tall.







Hilary Clark Cole

## ABOUT THE ARTIST – Hilary Clark Cole

Canadian sculptor Hilary Clark Cole was born in Victoria, British Columbia, and is a graduate of the Ontario College of Art and Design. She has lived and worked professionally in Muskoka since 1971.

Working mainly in hand-built welded steel artwork and also in cast limited edition bronzes, her metal sculptures can be very small or very large, rough or smooth, monochromatic or colourful. The subject matter can range from a tiny sculpture of a flower, where the curve of the leaf makes one think it is real, to a 10" to 15" bronze or steel figure that seems human in its detail and beauty, to the welded fantasy faces that command the wall, to a study of a crow, steely-natured, with blue-black torch-coloured wings, to a life-size sculptures of Canadian wildlife that speak of power and wild nature.

Over the years of her professional art career, this Canadian sculptor has produced a large body of one-of-a-kind metal sculptures, many in private collections, and in public installations of outdoor Corten steel sculptures, such as Grizzly Bears, Mother and Cubs, The Chestnut Filly, Wolves, the Messengers, Windswept Silhouette, and The Muskox.

As well as having her metal sculptures in many private collections, Hilary has created significant public sculptures over the years, providing works for the head offices of Stelco and Tilley Endurables and for sites such as the Unionville High School for the Arts and the Bethune Memorial in Shi Cha Chuang, China.

She created the prestigious bronze ARC Award for Cadillac-Fairview Corporation, which has been awarded annually.

Hilary also has permanent installations locally in the Orillia Public Library, South Muskoka Memorial Hospital, the Port Carling Library, and the garden of the Town of Gravenhurst Municipal Offices. Recently she installed a collaborative work in the District of Muskoka Council Chambers in Bracebridge, Ontario.

Hilary has won many awards for her sculptures and one of her signature bustiers was added to the permanent collection for Muskoka Arts & Crafts Inc.

She and her sculptures have been profiled on television programs such as the Life Channel, CBC, and Global. She is a strong role model in her community, and in 2002 won the first YWCA Woman of Distinction Award for Arts and Culture.

Whether creating realistic, three-dimensional animals or more ethereal sculptures such as Windswept Silhouette, Hilary continues to explore her own creative depths and to provoke deep-seated responses in viewers.



Windswept Silhouette



Chestnut Filly



Bee Three



Born of the Rain



The Fawn

## SELECTED RESUME-Hilary Clark Cole, AOCAD

- Graduated from Ontario College of Art and Design, 1969
- Has lived and worked professionally in Muskoka since 1971

### MATERIALS

One of a kind, hand-built, welded steel sheet and rod sculptures, Corten Steel Plate, sometimes incorporating glass, copper, brass, and stones. Indoor and outdoor installations, bronze castings, limited editions.

### PUBLIC INSTALLATIONS AND COMMISSIONS

- Muskoka District Council Chambers, Bracebridge, Ontario
- Port Carling Library, Port Carling, Ontario
- Municipal Offices, Gravenhurst, Ontario
- Creator of bronze Cadillac-Fairview Corporation "ARC" Award
- AlertCare Corporation's "The Colonial", Whitby, Ontario
- Tilley Endurables World Headquarters, Toronto, Ontario
- Unionville High School for the Arts, Unionville, Ontario
- Stelco Head Offices, Toronto, Ontario
- Bethune Memorial, Shi Cha Chuang, China
- Orillia Public Library, Orillia, Ontario
- Bracebridge Sportsplex, Bracebridge, Ontario
- Gravenhurst Public School, Gravenhurst, Ontario
- Sullivan Law Offices, Gravenhurst, Ontario
- Gravenhurst High School, Gravenhurst, Ontario
- Stuart and Cruikshank Law Offices, Gravenhurst, Ontario
- Beechgrove Public School, Gravenhurst, Ontario
- Saint Gabriel's Church, Willowdale, Ontario
- Trinity United Church, Gravenhurst, Ontario
- South Muskoka Memorial Hospital, Bracebridge, Ontario
- Muskoka Arts and Crafts Inc. Permanent Collection

### AWARDS

- Muskoka Arts and Crafts Patricia M. Boyer Award of Excellence in 3D 2011
- Margot Bindhardt Award Royal Agricultural Winter Fair Fine Art Showcase 2009
- Muskoka Arts and Crafts Lifetime Membership Award, 2008
- Muskoka Arts and Crafts Award of Excellence, Spring Show, 2002 and 2007
- Enterprising Women, Best Artist / Craftsperson 2005
- Muskoka Arts and Crafts People's Choice Award, 2005
- YWCA Woman of Distinction Award for Arts and Culture, 2002
- Muskoka Arts and Crafts People's Choice Award, 1999, 2000
- Doug Gatcke Award for Member's Choice, 1998, 1999 and 2000
- Town of Gravenhurst Achievement Award, 1994
- Muskoka Arts and Crafts Founding Patron's Award, 1986

Hilary Clark Cole and her metal sculptures have been featured on CBC Television, Global Television, CKVR, and the Life Channel.