



Greg front view



'Girl with a Seashell'



John front view



Abraham Lincoln
bicentennial
medallion, president

James Nance

Biography

Birth date 14 November 1948

Introduction

James J. Nance is a portrait sculptor who has for thirty years developed his artistic skills and reputation from studios in Minneapolis Minnesota and Loveland Colorado. His expressive and accurate portrait commissions in terra-cotta and bronze have received enthusiastic acclaim and have been acquired by both public and private collections.

James was born in Dallas and grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where, inspired by his exposure to western artists such as Fredrick Remington and Charlie Russell, he developed an early interest in painting and sculpture. However, his love for aviation led him first to a career as a pilot. After graduating from the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado in 1971, he served a five year tour of duty as an Air Force pilot, including service in Viet Nam. Later, during the oil pipeline construction, he worked as a bush pilot in Alaska and then accepted a job with Hughes Air West Airlines. Several mergers later he ended up with Northwest Airlines where he was a senior international captain before taking a early retirement in 2007.

While living in Minneapolis, James attended classes at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and the Atelier Lack classical painting and drawing school. His art education was also complemented with an exhaustive study of human anatomy. Jim's wife Jeanne claims that his motto is "anything worth doing is worth overdoing," which he has vigorously applied to his study of art.



James has always felt that the human face is the window to the soul, so it isn't surprising that he was naturally drawn to the field of portrait sculpture. His interests and talents however aren't limited to portraiture; he has continued to develop his skill in figure sculpture and in 1989 won first place in the week long prestigious Johnston International Figure Sculpture competition, sponsored annually by the International Sculpture Center of Washington D.C.

During 1990-1991, James was a guest artist in residence at the Smithsonian National Gallery in Washington DC, where he spent countless hours drawing and sculpting after European and American masterpieces in the collection. During this period, the artist who influenced James the most was French neoclassical portrait sculptor Jean-Antoine Houdon, 1741-1828, who sculpted incredible busts of Jefferson, Franklin, John Paul Jones, and Napoleon. The next year James spent six months studying renaissance sculpture at the Uffizi Gallery in Florence Italy.

In 1994, James, his wife Jeanne, moved to Loveland Colorado, to establish a studio and take advantage of the thriving artistic climate and the proximity to several of America's finest bronze art foundries. James maintains an active sculpture business with private portrait commissions. James will travel worldwide to meet with a client for the first portrait sculpture sitting. When not sculpting, James and Jeanne enjoy Colorado mountain life with their seven dogs, Golden Retrievers Buster, Annie, and Maggie, English Springer Jasper, Welsh Corgie Tootsie, and black pugs Alfalfa and Yoda and two paint horses Gypsy and Zoey.

Education

1967 - 1971 USAF Academy, Colorado Springs, CO
1973 – 1975 MBA, Pacific Lutheran University, WA
1984 – 1986 Minneapolis College of Art and Design, MN
1986 – 1989 Atelier Lack Classical Realism Academy, MN
1987 – 1989 University of Minnesota Medical School, Anatomy

Awards

1987 - Minnesota State Sculpture competition, Silver Medal
1989 - International Sculpture Center, Johnson sculpture competition, 1st Place in 5 day live model figure sculpture competition
1990 - Smithsonian National Gallery "Guest Artist in Residence"
1992 - Uffizi Gallery, 6 month sculpture study, Florence Italy
1995 - Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Award of Merit, Abraham Lincoln Dual Portraits, Lincoln Library
2008 - Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Medallion
2008 – US Presidential Inaugural Medal finalist

Selected Commissions

1979 – 2009 - 119 Portrait bust commissions sculpted
1996 - Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Springfield Illinois
1997 - Lincoln Museum, Fort Wayne Indiana
1998 - Lincoln Library, Springfield Illinois
1999 - Tennessee College of Law, Knoxville Tennessee





2008 - Airline Pilots Memorial

Group Exhibitions

National Sculpture Society, Associate Member
American Medallic Sculpture Association
Portrait Society of America
Abraham Lincoln Association and Lincoln Forum

Artist Statement

Representative Portrait Prices
Life size bronze portrait bust 15,000 GBP / \$21,500 USD.
Life size bronze full figure 60,000 GBP / \$87,000 USD.
Travel for a sitting 500 GBP a day plus expenses.

Professional Skills and Services:

Portrait sculpture in classic bust, figure, relief, or medallion.
Sculpture in bronze, terra cotta, cast marble, cast linen paper.
Subjects of contemporary, historical, and posthumous portraits.
Reference from live sittings, photographic, and historical research

Monumental Services:

Monumental sculpture and portraits of any size.
Project management in research, design, and installation.
Monumental bids upon request through this agency.

Statement

Before I begin with a new portrait sculpture, I prefer to visit with my client in person for a live sitting. During this sitting, I will make a plaster face mask for bone structure reference, take numerous photographs, make sketches and measurements, and most importantly try to learn as much as possible about the client's history and personality. To this end, I am happy to travel any where in the world.

In the event that the subject is not available for a sitting, I am experienced in sculpting from photographs alone. Essential to a successful sculpture using this technique is the availability of a large number of photographs of the subject taken from various angles.

The length of calendar time required for the completion of a portrait sculpture commission is normally 6 months. During the first three months of this period, I will expect to spend approximately 150 hours of artistic labor on the actual portrait bust sculpture in clay. A better sculpture will always be created if the process is not rushed and sufficient time is allowed between sculpting sessions to allow the sculpture to naturally take on its own life; three months seems to work well.

After the clay sculpture is complete, the client will be sent photographs for approval. The portrait sculpture will then be consigned to a bronze foundry, which will take an average of 3 months to cast the bronze. During the casting phase, I will spend approximately 40 hours of supervision for the mold making, casting, finishing, and shipping. The





total time required from start to delivery is fairly standard at 6 months.

Portrait sculptures are also available in other materials such as Terra-Cotta.



Half Length

From £ 15000.00

\$ 3000.00



Full Length

From £ 60000.00

\$ 120000.00

The Prices quoted are for the standard mediums of oil on canvas and bronze (in the case of sculpture).

For other mediums, prices may vary, please enquire directly with us for more specific quotes.

