



*The Tifton Museum of Arts and Heritage  
Presents*

*Sculptural Encounters:  
The Art of Ralph Hurst  
Sunday, October 17, 2010  
2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.*

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**Ralph N. Hurst — September 4, 1918 - December 7, 2003**

Since his first major competitive exhibition “American Sculpture 1951” at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and “Art USA: ‘58” at Madison Square Garden in New York, Ralph Hurst continued, in the words of Patricia Boyd Wilson of *The Christian Science Monitor* in April 1973, to stand preeminent among sculptors in the United States.” Painter, ceramist, designer, architect, and most notably, sculptor, Hurst traversed the art range. From portraiture to photography, from Museum curator of the Ogunquit, Maine Museum of Art, to art educator, from architectural bas-reliefs at Florida State University to interior and portrait bas-reliefs, and his plethora of three-dimensional carvings of figures, birds, animals, and fish, he has archival documentation of thousands of works. Exhibiting from Main to California, one-man exhibitions and galleries from coast to coast, Hurst enjoyed thousands of collectors, both corporate and private, all over the United States, Canada, and Europe who enjoy the beauty and tactile pleasure of his art.

Born in Decatur, Indiana, Hurst earned his undergraduate and graduate work in art from Indiana University. In 1953, he migrated to Miami, Florida, where he was discovered and lured to Florida State University to become a member of the art faculty of 27 years. Professor Emeritus Hurst remembers fondly his teaching experience in ceramics, constructive design, woodworking, synthetics, supervising art education majors and teaching elementary art education teachers on campus as well as several years of in-service art classes to teachers in kindergarten and elementary classes in Dade, Palm Beach, and Escambia counties. Highlighting his Florida State University career was receiving three faculty grants, one of which provided the opportunity to have a studio in Florence, Italy carving in alabaster and marble. February 15-March 24, 2002 Florida State University honored Hurst with a retrospective of his fifty plus years as an artist by staging in the Museum of Fine Arts examples of his works in wood, marble, alabaster, bronze, steatite, ceramics, paint, and synthetics, celebrating the many artistic and life time achievements of his much loved, honored, and award winning works. Because his work simplifies, abstracts, many of his pieces negate detail by tucking close (as to be one) the arms, feet, or other anatomical parts. Hurst’s strength as a sculptor is strong repetition of rhythmic carving graceful lines reminiscent of the classics. Called a poet in stone, Hurst devoted his creative life to art that gained him recognition from Maine to California. Though best known for his elegant and sensuous alabaster carvings of figures and love birds, Hurst was a multimedia artist who found great joy in the creative process. Said Hurst, “In the hours of creativity when I engage in shaping boulders into form and the form becomes alive and a thing of beauty, my spirit soars.”

In September 2003, the Hursts, Ralph and his wife Jean, established the Ralph and Jean Hurst Collection with Tallahassee Community College through donation of artwork of substantial value. The Ralph Hurst Gallery was cut out of a space next to the performing arts theatre co-designed by Jean Hurst founding theatre director and English professor at Tallahassee Community College from 1969-2000. On perpetual exhibition, the collection of their art not only allows them to share creativity with students and faculty of the College campus but with the entire community and perhaps impart some of their enthusiasm for art as well as inspire and teach others to appreciate art.

## CHRONOLOGY

1918	Born September 4 to Jessie and Matilda Hurst Decatur, Adams County, Indiana	1959	Joined Signature Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
1925-37	Education: Public Schools, Decatur, Indiana	1960	The Daily Bread Liturgical International Art Exhibition Civic Auditorium, San Francisco, California
1937	Education: Ball State Teachers College, Muncie, Indiana	1961	Ball Gallery Award, National Small Sculpture Exhibition, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana
1938	Education: Indiana Central College, Indianapolis, Indiana	1961	Faculty Research Grant To explore new methods of casting sculpture in metals
1939-40	Education: Indianapolis Academy of Commercial Art	1963	Award, Associated Florida Sculptors Exhibition, Miami, Florida
1941-90	Married Nora M. Buchanan	1963	Cast stone bas-relief: School of Education Building (Carothers Building), West Entrance, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida
1942-46	Photographer, Army Air Corps	1963	Cast stone bas-reliefs, 340 panels (co-design with Artist Leon Mead) University Union Building, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida
1949	Bachelor of Science, Art Education Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana	1964	Joined LeMoyné Art Foundation, Tallahassee, Florida
1949-50	Joined faculty Junior High School, Richmond, Indiana	1964	Leave to travel 3 months in Europe
1950-51	Joined faculty as Teaching Fellow Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana	1964	Joined Harmon Galleries of American Art, Naples, Florida (ownership changed to William Meek in 1978)
1951	American Sculptors Exhibition Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, New York	1965	Joined Group Gallery, Jacksonville, Florida
1951	Ogunquit School of Painting and Sculpture, Ogunquit, Maine	1965	Joined Gallery of Art, Panama City, Florida
1952	Most Meritorious Award and Bronstein Purchase Award, Tri- State Exhibition, Museum of Arts and Sciences, Evansville, Indiana	1966	Joined Artists Equity, New York, New York
1952	First Prize, Hoosier Salon Patrons Association Annual Exhibi- tion, Indianapolis, Indiana	1966	Joined Las Olas Gallery, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
1952	Award, Indiana Artists Association, John Herron Art Museum Indianapolis, Indiana	1967	Sculpture selected for Southeastern Art Traveling Exhibition, High Museum, Atlanta, Georgia
1952	Master of Fine Arts, Sculpture (studied with internationally renowned French/American Sculptor Robert Laurent) Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana	1967	Faculty Development Grant, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida To make films on carving sculpture
1952	Joined faculty, Miami Junior High, Miami, Florida	1968	Joined P. S. Galleries, Ogunquit, Maine
1953	Cantor Award, Indiana Artists Association, John Herron Art Museum, Indianapolis, Indiana	1968	Leave to travel in Mexico
1953	Prize and Craftsmanship Award, Florida Craftsman Annual Exhibitions, University of Miami, Miami, Florida	1970	Joined Galleria La Costa, Carlsbad, California
1953-79	Professor of Art, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida	1971	Merit Award, Frank A Weaner Gallery, Ybor City, Florida
1979	Professor Emeritus	1971	Community Purchase Award, Mobile Art Association, Mobile, Alabama
1953	(summer) Initial Curator, Ogunquit Museum of Art, Ogunquit, Maine	1971	Faculty Development Grant, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida To work in Italy carving in alabaster and marble and to visit design centers in Europe and Scandinavian Countries
1953	American Sculptors Exhibition Madison Square Garden, New York, New York	1972	Purchase Award, Mobile Art Association, Mobile, Alabama
1954	Contemporary Sculptors Drawings, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio	1972	Merit Award, Pensacola Art Center Association Best of Florida Exhibition, Pensacola, Florida
1954	Award, New Orleans Art Association Exhibition, Isaac Delgado Museum, New Orleans, Louisiana	1973-present	<i>Who's Who in American Art</i>
1954	Award, Four Arts Society Exhibition, Palm Beach, Florida	1974	Leave to travel in Italy
1956	First Prize, Hoosier Salon Patrons Association Annual Exhibi- tions, Indianapolis, Indiana	1975	Joined 2 + 2 LTD Art Gallery, New Orleans, Louisiana
1956	Purchase Award, New Orleans Art Association Exhibition, Isaac Delgado Museum, New Orleans, Louisiana	1975	Joined International Sculpture Center, Washington, D C
1957-59	President, Florida Sculptors Association	1975	Joined Left Bank Gallery, St. Simons, Georgia
1957	Award, Florida Craftsmen's Annual Exhibitions, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida	1976	Joined Midtown Payson Galleries, Portland, Maine and Hobe Sound, Florida
1958	Award, Associated Florida Sculptors Exhibition, Miami, Florida	1977	Leave to travel in Italy
1959	Purchase Award, Associated Florida Architects Special Art Exhibition, Jacksonville Art Museum, Jacksonville, Florida	1978	Joined Harmon Meek Gallery, Naples, Florida
1959	First Prize, Florida Craftsmen's Annual Exhibitions, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida	1979	Major Florida Artists Award, Harmon Gallery, Naples, Florida
1959	Designed and built house at 1801 Skyland Drive, Tallahassee, Florida	1979	Joined P. S. Galleries, Dallas, Texas
		1979	Joined Art Sources, Inc., Jacksonville, Florida
		1979	Art Patron art nominee of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hirshhorn: an exhibition of the work of artists nominated by the Southeastern Advisory Council for the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
		1980	Joined Foster Harmon Galleries of American Art, Sarasota, Florida

1982	Joined Verzyl Gallery, New Port, Long Island, New York	1975	<i>SPIRIT OF PSYCHOLOGY AND THE ARTS</i> , Alabaster carving, Cashel Center for Psychology and the Arts, Lake Worth, Florida
1982	Joined Mickelson Gallery, Washington, D C	1978	<i>DON QUIXOTE</i> , Cement, Gusman Concert Hall, University of Miami, Miami, Florida
1986	Honoree of the Adams County, Indiana, Sesquicentennial for outstanding achievement as a noted sculptor	1978	<i>SEATED FIGURE</i> , Alabaster carving, Otto G. Richter Library, University of Miami, Miami, Florida
1987	Joined Magadini Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona	1978	<i>BROWN GEESE</i> , Alabaster carving, Tupperware World Headquarters, Orlando, Florida
1989	Joined London Gallery, Montreal, Canada	1978	<i>UNTITLED</i> and <i>FLORIDA DOE</i> , Alabaster carvings, The Florida Collection, Barnett Bank of Jacksonville, Florida
1990	Married Jean M. English	1979	<i>GROSBEEK MADONNA</i> , Alabaster carving, Library, The University of Tennessee at Martin, Martin, Tennessee
1990-93	Artist in Residence, The University of Tennessee at Martin, Tennessee	1983	<i>SEA FORMS</i> , Alabaster carving, Philharmonic Center for the Arts, Naples, Florida
1993	Appointed, Tennessee Arts Commission Advisory Panel on Arts in Education	1981	<i>UNTITLED; ELDER BIRD; THE GREAT HORNBILL</i> , Alabaster carvings, Thomasville Arts Guild, Thomasville Cultural Center, Thomasville, Georgia
1993	Redesigned artist's original house and studio of 1959 now known as "The Dovecote" 1801 Skyland Drive, Tallahassee, Florida	1982	<i>VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD</i> , Alabaster carving and maquette design symbol, ceramic casting, Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee, Florida
1997	Key to the City, Decatur, Indiana	1986	<i>SEALS</i> , Alabaster carving, Decatur Public Library, Decatur, Indiana
1998	Erekson Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts, Decatur, Indiana	1987	<i>STANDING FIGURE</i> , Bronze, Helen Lind Garden, LeMoyné Art Foundation, Tallahassee, Florida
	PUBLIC WORKS	1987	<i>LIONESS AND CUB</i> , Alabaster carving, Chancellors' Office, Hall-Moody Administration Building, The University of Tennessee at Martin, Martin, Tennessee
1947	<i>GIRL WASHING HER HAIR</i> , Mahogany carving, Appleton Museum of Art, Ocala, Florida	1988	<i>AL BLOCK</i> , Bronze bas-relief plaque, LeMoyné Art Foundation, Tallahassee, Florida
1951	<i>GIRL WITH BIWA</i> , Alabaster carving, Evansville Museum of Arts and Sciences, Evansville, Indiana	1988	<i>SEA FANTASY</i> , Alabaster carving, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio
1951	<i>GIRL AND BIRD</i> , Mahogany carving, Tallahassee Museum of History and Natural Science, Tallahassee, Florida	1991	<i>TROPICAL BIRD FORM</i> , Mexican alabaster carving, Chancellors' Conference Room, The University of Tennessee at Martin, Martin, Tennessee
1953	<i>SGT. WHIDDON</i> , Oil portrait, Whiddon Armory, Tallahassee, Florida	1992	<i>PREENING DUCK</i> , Alabaster carving, Bay County Library, Panama City, Florida
1956	<i>DEAN RALPH EYMAN</i> , Oil portrait, Stone Building, Library Resource Center, College of Education, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida	1993	<i>IDENTIFICATION WALL AND UNIVERSITY SEAL</i> , The University of Tennessee at Martin, Martin, Tennessee
1956	<i>REV. W. JEFFERY ALFRIEND</i> , Oil portrait, St. John's Episcopal Church, Tallahassee, Florida	1993	<i>FIELDS OF WILD IRISES # 1 AND # 2</i> , "CONSIDER THE LILIES OF THE FIELD," Two Wall Murals (8' x 4' and 6' x 4') acrylic, Chancellors' Conference Room, Hall-Moody Administration Building, The University of Tennessee at Martin, Martin, Tennessee.
1956	<i>REV. W. JEFFERY ALFRIEND</i> , Plaster bust, St. John's Episcopal Church, Tallahassee, Florida	1993	<i>EIGHT CHANCELLORS</i> , Water Color Portraits, Chancellors' Conference Room, Hall-Moody Administration Building, The University of Tennessee at Martin, Martin, Tennessee
1957	<i>THREE FIGURES</i> , Stone bas-relief, Carothers Building, Former College of Education Building, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida	1997	<i>CLAUDE PEPPER</i> , Bas-relief portrait, bronze, Claude Pepper Center, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida
1957	<i>RHYTHM</i> , Mahogany bas-relief sculpture (H 20" x W 28) The University of Florida, P. K. Yonge School, Gainesville, Florida	1997	<i>GOLDEN EAGLE</i> , Alabaster carving, Capitol Building, Tallahassee, Florida
1962	<i>J. G. KELLUM</i> , Oil portrait, Kellum Hall, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida	1997	<i>DANCING IBIS</i> , Bronze casting, bas relief, Riverside Civic Center, Decatur, Indiana
1963	<i>ABSTRACT BAS-RELIEF PANELS</i> , 340 Panels, relief cement sand casting sculptures, Oglesby Student Union, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida (Co-Design with Artist Leon Mead)	1998	<i>CUB WITH FISH</i> , Alabaster carving, Leon County Public Library, Tallahassee, Florida
1967	<i>GIRL WITH LOON</i> , Steatite carving, Gulf Life Corporate Towers, Jacksonville, Florida	2000	<i>ANGELS' ANGEL</i> , Alabaster carving, Museum of Art Angels, Inc., Tallahassee, Florida
1971	<i>OUR LADY OF APPALACHIA, STATUE OF THE VIRGIN MARY, A MEDIEVAL SHRINE</i> , Mixed media, St. Thomas More Cathedral, Tallahassee, Florida	2000	<i>SLEEPING BEAR</i> , Alabaster carving, Hospice parlor, Tallahassee, Florida
1972	<i>THE LOVED</i> , Walnut woodcarving, Adams County Museum, Decatur, Indiana		
1973	<i>MOSES</i> , Steatite carving, Temple Israel, Columbus, Georgia		
1975	<i>ABRAHAM</i> , Alabaster carving, Tampa Public Library, Tampa, Florida		

**The Exhibit continues  
through November 7  
Tuesdays through Friday  
11 am—3 pm  
Thursday 5-7 pm; Sunday 1-2 pm**

*Artist's Statement*

*I create for beauty and pleasure. I want my work to reflect the joy of the creative process. I want my art to become a part of life — enriching, ennobling, and becoming a majestic presence.*

*Sharing my creations allows me to realize the thrust of my creative artistic ambition.*

*I have always tried to follow the advice of Constantine Brancusi, the father of modern sculpture, to whom I was referred by my mentor, Robert Laurant:*

*Never forget you are an artist.*

*Do not lose confidence.*

*Fear nothing. You will succeed.*

*Create like a god; reign like a king;*

*Work like a slave.*

*Constantine Brancusi*