

August 14, 2001

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Mr. Hans Holtkamp, Artist
117 Simon Fraser Cres.
Saskatoon, SK.
S7H 3S9

I met Hans in excess of three years ago, when I was a member of Saskatoon's Civic gallery's (The Mendel) Board of Trustees and Chair of a committee responsible for the design and erection of a Donors' Wall. The wall was erected for two reasons: to recognize the contributions of Mr. Fred Mendel to Saskatoon through his support of the visual arts, and to acknowledge those who, following Mr. Mendel's lead, made substantial contributions in support of our gallery. This wall, an existing brick wall, was modified by inlaying large tablets of marble on which the names of these contributors were affixed. Each name was assembled with the use of individually placed dye-cast metal letters; the result, a beautiful addition to the exterior of the gallery. It was Hans who was responsible for the layout and affixing of these names – a job beautifully done.

Working on the Mendel project, frequenting the shop in which Hans was assembling our project, was where I first saw his work as a sculptor in bronze. It was the result of the many visits to the shop in over-seeing our project that I became interested in what he was doing as an artist and asked if I could visit his studio to view more of his work. Hans, obliging me, invited me to view his work.

My wife and I have shown an interest in art, particularly art of artists who work and reside here at home in the prairies. We've collected the work of artists whose works are of interest to us, art that is presented through the use of various mediums and genres. We've collected some sculpture, pieces that we very much enjoy but nothing in cast, nothing figurative or representational. We saw this omission as a significant void within our small collection. On our visits to Hans's studio we saw works (busts) of people with whom we were significantly familiar. These works were alive, their features accurate, their characters exposed and mood well expressed. His work, in our opinion, is exceptional. His work so impressed us that upon his invitation I chose to sit for a life-sized bust, without intending to have him go further with the work than the maquette. Upon the completion of this stage I couldn't imagine Hans doing anything other than completing the piece...I couldn't imagine him placing his talented hands upon the top of this model and returning it to nothing more than a ball of clay. It was cast, I have it and love it. This piece of mine has all the characteristics that I have previously described relating to his work regarding the others.

I've now had two occasions in which I've worked with Hans, both extremely rewarding.

This is how I perceive Hans:

- ...Committed to his art.
- ...Exacting in his work...the work is never compromised.
- ...Proficient in transferring his visuals to the work
- ...Engages in the development of an understanding of the subject to be portrayed.
- ...Honours timelines.
- ...Is professional.
- ...Co-operative in engagement.
- ...An absolute pleasure to work with...we got the work done and had fun.

I'm pleased to play a role in introducing Mr. Hans Holtkamp to you. It is my sincerest wish that you would avail yourselves of his services in the making of art, so that you too can experience his significant talent.

Thank you for your consideration

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