

## Lynn Kircher

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### *From Crayons to Clay...*

Lynn Kircher's artistic journey has taken him from the colorful world of crayons to the tactile realm of clay and bronze. Born in Decatur, Illinois, he spent his formative years in Saint Louis, Missouri, where his love for art began to blossom. At the age of nine, he began studying the works of master artists such as Michelangelo, Bridgeman, and Shephard, and he was awarded a full scholarship to the Minneapolis School of Art as a high school student.



However, Lynn's artistic aspirations were put on hold when he joined the military at the age of 17 and served two tours on the combat bridge CIC of the aircraft carrier USS Coral Sea CVA 43 in Vietnam. After completing his military service, Lynn resumed his artistic studies under the tutelage of John Jellico, the founder of the Colorado Institute of Art. Lynn's passion for teaching soon became evident, and he eventually became a teacher at the Institute himself. The shows increasingly featured sculpture in a variety of media. It was at this time that John Jellico, who attended each show, said to Lynn, *"Your paintings are good, but your sculpture is special, you should sculpt!"* Soon after Lynn opened his own studio in Lakewood, Colorado, he began to hold one-man shows at the Institute's Gallery, every two years. The shows featured works in a variety of media, including sculpture.

### *From Clay to Bronze...*

*"...In all his works, he communicates his overflowing passionateness, his ecstatic appreciation for reaching others through his art. His bronzes seem to embody a definite feeling of humility and passion... The mystery of creation has always been a subject of inspiration to Lynn."*

### **John Jellico**

*Founder, Colorado Institute of Art*

*Former Associate Editor American Artist Magazine and Southwest Art.*

It was during this time that John Jellico encouraged Lynn to focus on sculpting, citing his exceptional talent in that area. Lynn's parents secured his first bronze commission, the life-size crucifix *"At Peace,"* which was eventually presented to John Paul II at the Vatican in Rome. This led to many more commissions for Lynn, including works for churches, retreat centers, and private collections throughout North America and beyond.

In recognition of his exceptional talent and contributions to the art world, Lynn has received numerous awards and accolades, including induction into the Hall of Fame for the Colorado Institute of Art in 1992, Artist of the Year by the Fra Angelico Society in 2001, and 5 BENEs for Visual Arts Awards for Ministry and Liturgy Magazine. In 2002, his work was accepted into the Vatican collection, and he remains humbled by the international recognition that has come with this honor.

In 2015, Lynn and his wife Jane took on the leadership of a group of nine other artists to design, sculpt, and craft over 60 monumental bronzes with complex bases, which were installed within three years. Lynn's portion of this commission includes the *Crucifixion (Station 12)*, *the Laying in the Tomb (Station 14)*, and the *Risen Christ*. These works are now located at the Saint Ignatius Loyola Retreat Center in Gretna, Nebraska, and at Saint Ann's in Kalamazoo, Michigan, with installation scheduled for 2024. This ambitious sculpture project brought together some of the top figurative artists and kept eight foundries and untold skilled artisans busy for months.

Throughout his artistic journey, Lynn has remained dedicated to his craft and to the power of storytelling through art. His bronzes convey a sense of passion and humility, reflecting his deep appreciation for the mystery of creation. Lynn Kircher is a true master of his craft, and his works continue to inspire and captivate audiences around the world.



**Lynn Kircher and Pope John Paul II**

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*Repeating a journey over a thousand years old...*

As Lynn Kircher and Pope John Paul II met, Kircher realized a life long dream of placing his art in the Papal collection. The bronze life-sized torso was presented to His Holiness.



**“At Peace”**

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Bronze life-sized torso