

In Loving Memory of Burke Rutherford
December 10, 1938 - February 13, 2015

Today we celebrate the extraordinary life of Burke Rutherford, whose artistic spirit began flourishing at just two years old, when he first discovered his love for clay. This early passion would shape his entire life's journey and leave an indelible mark on the world of sculpture and architecture.

From his innovative work with aluminum casting to his masterful bronze sculptures, Burke's artistic journey was one of constant evolution and dedication. Despite challenges - including having to abandon his beloved aluminum work due to health concerns - his creativity never wavered. He adapted and continued to create, working with foundries across the USA and Mexico to bring his bronze visions to life.

His greatest legacy stands proudly in San Carlos - the Galeria Bellas Artes, inaugurated on January 6, 1993. This landmark building, designed by Burke himself, embodies his vision and continues to inspire visitors 30 years later. From his whimsical Ruther birds to his majestic Elefords, from architectural sculptures to intimate pieces, each work of art carries his unique signature of creativity and passion. Burke often said: "There is nothing more gratifying than to see people, young, old and even blind enjoy your work; touching and feeling the sculpture as it truly should be experienced." This sentiment perfectly captured his belief that art should be accessible and meaningful to everyone.

Though he is no longer physically with us, Burke's spirit lives on through his timeless creations, in the memories of those who loved him, and in the countless lives he touched with his generosity and vision. He was more than an artist - he was a mentor, a friend, and an inspiration to all who knew him. Burke Rutherford's legacy is one of love, devotion, creativity, and unwavering dedication to his craft. He showed us that true art transcends the physical form to touch hearts and transform lives. His work continues to inspire new generations, reminding us that beauty, like love, is eternal.

Though we miss him dearly, we celebrate his life and continue his vision through the Galeria Bellas Artes San Carlos, ensuring that his dream and his artistic spirit will continue to touch lives for generations to come.

Rest in peace, dear Burke. Your art, your love, and your spirit continue to inspire us all.

Sincerely,
Pilar Rutherford