

# Alumni + Friends Newsletter



## Kevin Robb



### **Inspiration, passion, creativity and survival are words that describe Colorado native and RMCAD graduate Kevin Robb (GD '78).**

Kevin has been sculpting for more than 28 years using metal in a variety of ways, incorporating his signature swirls, grind marks and patina style. Producing about 20 large-scale pieces each year, Kevin is known locally, nationally and internationally.

But beyond Kevin's artistic achievements, his is a story of triumph, celebration, and endurance. In January 2004 Kevin suffered a massive stroke, which left him on life support for thirteen days and in various rehabilitation hospitals for the next seven weeks.

With the help of family and art therapists, Kevin resumed making art about six months after his stroke. Within a year, he was able to get back into his studio.

Despite partial paralysis, Kevin is still able to create his signature large scale pieces and live his passion for fine art and metal. He uses hand gestures, non-verbal communication, some basic speaking and the help of his wife Diane to communicate with others. And Kevin's passion for his art comes through loud and clear in his eyes and smile.

Diane is the Executive Director of Kevin Robb Studio LLC. She greets the welders who assist Kevin, gets Kevin the communication tools he needs, and maintains relationships with art collector's as well as day to day operations. "Without art, I believe Kevin would not be where he is today. I believe it is his passion and tenacity that have assisted in his amazing recovery and have him creating his fabulous designs again. The quality of his pieces is as high as ever because he is absolutely uncompromising," says Diane.

Kevin creates his pieces with the help of a full time welder, Pete Harnson, and occasional part time help. And although Kevin isn't able to use the tools himself, he is instrumental in every aspect of the creation and uses a pointer, gestures, and facial expressions for every cut, weld and twist of the metal.

### **At the beginning, there was RMCAD**

In the mid-1970s Kevin chose RMCAD to pursue his interest in fine arts, although he majored in graphic design. He recalls classes with RMCAD founder, Phil Steele, as some of his favorites.

***"If you follow your passion you will be successful. The more you work, the more the passion stays alive."***

**– Kevin Robb, GD '78**

After graduation he worked in the advertising industry and quickly realized

that was not his passion. "If you do what you love and work at it, you will succeed" says Kevin, through his wife.

After leaving the advertising business Kevin worked with his mentor Doug Wilson on developing his style with metal. "Kevin has always loved how tactile metal is. He loves the different types of metal and through bending and twisting, the metal evolves as you work with it."

Kevin describes his 1978 classmates as being "very dedicated to art" and he is still in contact with many of them. He credits RMCAD with giving him the opportunity to work with a variety of materials and develop a greater appreciation for the arts.

### **About his work**

Kevin started his sculpture career with figurative works in bronze and then moved to brightly painted abstract steel sculptures. His red, blue and yellow abstract sculpture at RMCAD is a great example. The majority of his pieces are large and he prefers stainless steel and fabricated bronze. Most of Kevin's work is known outside of Denver. His largest project so far is the Borgata Resort Casino Spa in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Kevin's

work is represented in galleries in New Mexico, California, Arizona, New York, Texas, Colorado, Florida, Michigan, and also Hong Kong. It takes Kevin about three weeks to complete a piece. About 13 years ago his wife and daughter moved to a house in Wheat Ridge that serves as the place where his pieces are created and displayed.

Kevin gets his inspiration from a variety of sources including travel to Japan, which took his work from more linear to incorporating curves. Another influence for Kevin is his daughter Kelsey, now 17, who played in his studio while he was working. "Good art comes truly from the innocence of a child," said Diane. Kevin watched his daughter play and was inspired by the free form lines that led to the creation of a series of pieces titled the Alphabet Series. These pieces were inspired by how his daughter stacked blocks and learned how to write the alphabet.

Kevin works in his studio most days and still produces a lot of work each year. "If you follow your passion you will be successful. The more you work, the more the passion stays alive." Kevin is currently working on a new series called the Kevin Robb Celebration Series that include bronze and stainless steel pieces created by Kevin since his stroke. For more information on Kevin go to [www.kevinrobb.com](http://www.kevinrobb.com)