

Roger Sayre

A native of Sandusky, Ohio, Roger Sayre graduated from NHS in 1961 and was nominated for this honor by former superintendent Hugh Sauer. During high school and the first two years after, Roger wandered under what he calls “a lack of direction.” He added, “I was so pathetic in shop that Mac (Myron McClish) frequently sent me to the art room” where he could use his natural artistic talents. Today Mr. Sayre is one of the country’s leading contemporary artists.

Between 1968-1976 he was an instructor and coordinator of visual arts at the Living Arts Center in Dayton. Between 1970 and 1973, he was associated with the Young Peoples’ Program at the Dayton Art Institute. Mr. Sayre’s formal art education began at the School of the Dayton Art Institute where he received his B.F.A. in 1973, and he received his M.F.A. from the University of Cincinnati in 1976, followed by an M.A. in 1977. He has taught at the University of Dayton, Wright State University, and the University of Cincinnati and has served as the head of the sculpture program at Indiana University East.

Exhibitions of Roger’s work have been held at Western Michigan University, Indiana University, the Wooster College Museum, “Opposing Sculptural Forms” at the Contemporary Arts Center in Cincinnati, “United States Art Today” in Washington, D.C., the Brooklyn Museum, and “200 Years of Ohio Art” at the Dayton Art Institute. Exhibitions have also been held in Canada, Argentina, and Japan. Throughout his career, Mr. Sayre’s sculpture and painted steel pieces have been collected by numerous corporations and individuals, including Rob Lowe, Noel Harrison, Virginia Kettering, Boeing Aircraft, Mead, Delco, Sears Roebuck, Kraftmaid, Provident Bank, and Ameritech. Three of his works are in the permanent collection of the Dayton Art Institute.

Mr. Sayre has received numerous prestigious awards for his work from universities and foundations, including a Ford Foundation Scholarship, an Atelier Scholarship from the Dayton Art Institute, an Honorary Exhibition of the Ohio Arts Council at the Ohio State Fair, a Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District Individual Artist Fellowship, and an Art for Public Places grant from the city of Dayton.