



PRESS INFORMATION

BILL MACK – BIOGRAPHY

The man behind 'The Heart of Hollywood Tour' is Bill Mack (73) a contemporary American sculptor, painter and probably the world's largest private collector of Hollywood memorabilia.

In 2007, Bill Mack purchased the metal from the original Hollywood sign that resided in the Hollywood Hills from 1923 until 1978 when it was deemed irreparable, put into storage and replaced by the sign that stands in Los Angeles today.

Mack has since used the historic sign metal as his canvas to paint portraits of the great stars of the Golden Age of Hollywood. Mack was inspired and determined to restore the 45-foot 'H' from the original sign and began the project in 2012.

Mack and his staff reviewed all of the photographs and other information available to determine which of the original metal panels in their inventory could be used. They then spent several months working with the best engineers and construction team around to build a new structure for the 'H' so it would be suitable for touring the world.

Mack was presented with a Certificate of Recognition for his restoration efforts and preserving the iconic symbol of Hollywood history. The world famous 'H' will be the centrepiece of a major Hollywood show touring the world from 2018. After five years crossing the planet, the sign is set to have a permanent home back in Hollywood by 2023 - in time to mark its 100th anniversary.

THE LARGEST PRIVATE COLLECTION OF HOLLYWOOD MEMORABILIA IN THE WORLD

Over the years Mack's fascination with everything Hollywood has led to him becoming an avid collector of Hollywood memorabilia. Today, he is thought to hold privately the biggest collection in the world. His priceless collection includes to name but a few items: original drawings from Picasso; several private presidential letters written by Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson and Kennedy; and an array of iconic costumes worn by stars of some of the biggest films in the world including 'The Wizard of Oz', 'Gone with the Wind' and 'Phantom of the Opera'. The unique and treasured artefacts are housed on his private estate in a tiered video theatre.



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WORLD-RENOWNED AND REVERED ARTIST

Bill Mack is a master craftsman and widely regarded as the world's preeminent relief sculptor. The relief format originated in ancient temple friezes and marble sculptures and refers to a sculptural technique where the sculpted elements remain attached to a solid background of the same material.

His drawings and paintings, in the photo realistic genre, are extremely rare and are immediately recognisable as Mack's. They are rendered with a dimensional or round quality since, while he is working in two-dimensions, he is always thinking of the images in three-dimensions.

Alongside his sculptural work, Mack has become world-famous for using the other letters from the original Hollywood sign to depict the Hollywood superstars of the Golden Age. Marilyn Monroe, Steve McQueen and Audrey Hepburn are just some of the legendary figures to have been immortalised in Mack's art.

He has had an extraordinary impact contemporary art and is renowned as being one of the US's most revered artists with his work selling for more than \$100,000.

EARLY YEARS

For more than 20 years, Mack paid his dues working mostly as a commissioned artist - from miniature medallic works such as the Bicentennial medals for the State of Minnesota and the cities of St. Louis and Baltimore, to reliefs and full-round sculptures for corporations such as General Motors, Pillsbury and 3M. Then in the early 1980s, Mack made a venturesome artistic move and entered the competitive gallery world with his Alto Relief sculptures. Today in the world of popular contemporary arts he has developed a major following.

He made a spectacular debut in New York and, in a remarkably short time for a contemporary artist, Mack has achieved worldwide acceptance. He has had exhibitions in galleries from New York City to Beverly Hills, and from Tokyo to Frankfurt. His work is in the collections of former Presidents Clinton, Ford and Reagan; actors and renowned art aficionados, Sylvester Stallone, Elizabeth Taylor and Tony Curtis; international business leaders Yaeko Shiotsuki, Hermann Schnabel and Irwin Jacobs; as well as- celebrities as diverse as Kenny Rogers,



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comic Howie Mandel, and record producer Jimmy "Jam" Harris. His piece entitled 'Lady' is part of the permanent collection of the Statue of Liberty National Monument on Liberty Island.

His sculpture of basketball great Kareem Abdul-Jabbar hangs in the entry of the NBA Hall of Fame and he has also created sculptures that are under consideration for installation in the International Tennis Hall of Fame (Arthur Ashe), the American and Canadian Hockey Halls of Fame (Hobey Baker), his sculpture of Lyle Alzado is in the collection of the NFL Hall of Fame, and a sculpture of Peggy Fleming is on permanent display at the United States Figure Skating Hall of Fame.

Mack was born in Minneapolis. At 17 years old, while employed as a draftsman for a company making bronze plaques, his light bulb moment happened. When a poor quality relief portrait for a plaque created by another artist was submitted to the company for approval - Mack thought he could do a better job. He gave it a try and it was instantly accepted. He immediately quit his job and began a career as a commissioned relief sculptor.

UNIVERSITY DAYS

At the University of Minnesota, he majored in journalism with a minor in art history while continuing to do commissioned work as a freelance artist. Upon graduation he continued his own career working as a relief sculptor. So rare are "accomplished" relief sculptors that Mack met with immediate success. His commissioned work ranged from very small, low relief ingots and medallions, to often monumental sculptures. Besides creating hundreds of works in traditional cast bronze, he also gained experience with more modern substances, including resins, urethanes, epoxies, silicones, and acrylics. Working in different materials and trying new methods, Mack gained increasing confidence in his abilities. When he made the transition to the galleries, he possessed a great deal of technical knowledge to complement his unique talents.

Mack makes Minneapolis his primary home to this day.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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