



Public Art - Lawrence Ludtke and the JFK Sculpture

Read the information about Lawrence Ludtke and answer the questions.

Texan Lawrence Ludtke is a well-known sculptor whose portrait and figurative sculptures are represented in prominent institutions across the United States including the United States Air Force Academy, Johns Hopkins Medical School, the White House, the Pentagon, and the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge.

Ludtke, who also created significant liturgical art, is most well known for his sculptures of famous personalities. Before the Kennedy sculpture, he created works of two other presidents, Lyndon Johnson and Ronald Reagan. Also included among his works are sculptures of famous Texans such as General Sam Houston and Governor John Connally.

He also created bronze panels depicting the seven Congressional Medal of Honor winners from Texas A & M University for their new Corps of Cadets Center, and a seven-foot bronze of General Earl Rudder, president of Texas A & M University and hero of the Cliffs of Normandy.

One of his most impressive works is the sculpture at Gettysburg. In 1994 Ludtke was commissioned by the state of Maryland to create a monumental bronze sculpture for the Gettysburg battlefield. The work, which is over 9' tall, depicts two wounded soldiers helping each other off the field.

In 2001, Ludtke was commissioned privately by Fort Worth leaders to create a piece for the JFK Tribute. The 8' bronze sculpture, cast at the Shidoni foundry in Tesuque, New Mexico is at the center of the tribute to President Kennedy. This was the last of Ludtke's heroic scale sculptures to be cast in bronze.

Mr. Ludtke passed away in May 2007.

Learn more about Lawrence Ludtke go to <http://www.ludtkesculptor.com/> and click on resume. After reading the resume, view some of Ludtke's Monumental Bronze Sculptures and other works.

1. What most impresses you about the works of Lawrence Ludtke?
2. Why do you think the sculpture of President Kennedy, like many of Ludtke's bronze sculptures, is so large?
3. In your opinion, what purpose does sculptures like that of JFK and other monuments to famous persons or events serve?
4. What other examples of public art can you think of? What purposes do those works serve?