

## Keith McCarter

The RHS Club website roving reporter recently caught up with renowned sculptor Keith McCarter (leaving year 1954), and applied the usual questions about his school, career and family life. This short biography is followed on the next page by a copy of his full biography from his own website.

1. School anecdotes including teachers
  - a. Influential teachers
    - i. Nigel McIsaac – a man with broad artistic vision, including film and cinema
    - ii. Charles McAra (English)
    - iii. Philip (Pip) Robertson (English)
    - iv. Tom Pow designed the ‘busy’ Schola Regia cover in use in the 1950’s
2. How did he become a sculptor / a famous sculptor?
  - a. Influential tutors at college
    - i. Helen Turner (head of Glass)
    - ii. Eric Schilsky (sculpture) - [www.royalscottishacademy.org/artists/544-eric-schilsky-rsa/overview/](http://www.royalscottishacademy.org/artists/544-eric-schilsky-rsa/overview/)
  - b. On graduation from Edinburgh College of Art, he was awarded the Andrew Grant scholarship (in Glass Design), which enabled travels in Scandinavia
  - c. Taken on as a designer at Steuben Glass, New York
3. Which are your favourite sculptors/sculptures?
  - a. Sculptors - Auguste Rodin
  - b. Own sculpture - Bronze " EPSILON" at Marchmont House, Greenlaw
4. Family
  - a. Married Brenda in New York in 1953 – she was an airline cabin staff member for Pan AM (?)
  - b. Brother Graham also in NY at this time
5. Links to relevant websites and documents
  - a. See the links at the end of this document, and ‘Sculpture and the Environment’ – an article about Keith in the 1989 The Architect's journal is available as a PDF
6. Sculpture descriptions – a few examples
  - a. Joined two designers in creating decorative elements to London County Council buildings
  - b. Mural at Houndsditch – for Colonel Sieffert for property dev. Co.
  - c. Bronze at the British High Commission in Lagos, Nigeria
  - d. Bronzes in the USA – in Washington and New York State
7. Photographs
  - a. Lots provided, including his sculptures, his photo album, and RHS sports photos
8. How do you select names for your sculptures?
  - a. The underlying influences are Greek mythology, The Greek ‘White marble’ island of Paros, classical music (Tchaikovsky’s Sleeping beauty influenced ‘Arabesque’), although serendipity may play a small part.
9. Miscellany
  - a. Keith was a member of the 13<sup>th</sup> Portobello Cubs (along with jimmy Duncan, Tubby’s elder brother)
  - b. Worked for a while as a labourer in Watney’s brewery in Mortlake
  - c. Brother Graham graduated from Guildford Art College, made a career in photography, and is currently resident in Sydney Australia
  - d. Keith also has an extensive gallery of Glass sculpture photographs – they may be available later
  - e. Charlie McAra tried to persuade Keith to become a writer – Keith replied “Charlie McAra thought I had the potential to become a writer (based upon my class essays and analysis of set books) but the plastic arts won out !
  - f. The 1954 Schola Regia easter edition shows Keith in the 1st XI photograph, while the summer edition shows him making 21 runs against Paisley Grammar Schools, but being outdone by younger brother Graham’s bowling feat of 5 for 0 against Broughton

### Links

<https://artuk.org/discover/artists/mccarter-keith-b-1936>

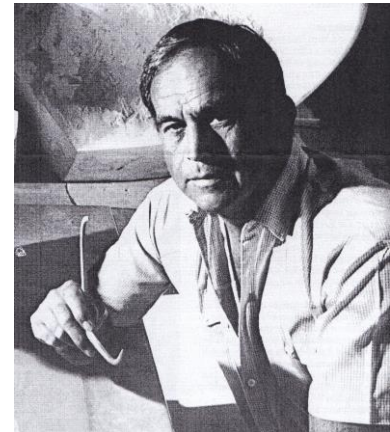
[marchmonthouse.com/news/keith-mccarter-reveals-new-sculpture-epsilon-at-marchmont-house](http://marchmonthouse.com/news/keith-mccarter-reveals-new-sculpture-epsilon-at-marchmont-house)

[https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Keith\\_McCarter](https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Keith_McCarter)

<https://www.thesculpturepark.com/keith-mccarter/>

## Keith McCarter – his website CV

Keith is a sculptor based in the Scottish border town of Melrose, and has undertaken numerous commissions both in the United Kingdom and abroad. His work is in collections world-wide and ranges in scale from small, domestic pieces, to monumental work related to architecture or landscape situations. Primarily concerned in creating work within the built or landscaped environment, he has carried out numerous commissions in a diverse range of media and has worked with many eminent architects on a wide variety of projects world-wide.



His  
sized

Within the online gallery are a selection of these works together with small bronze sculptures shown within traditional galleries. The majority of his work has been realised in bronze or stainless steel, often incorporating the use of water, he has designed work in concrete, granite, grp. and a host of other materials which has ranged from individual murals, reliefs, to retaining walls and complete cladding of buildings.

has  
but

He has also worked as a member of several design teams responsible for urban design strategies and is currently retained as consultant to the Forth Quarter waterfront development in Edinburgh.

- 1936** Born in Lanarkshire, Scotland
- 1948-54** The Royal High School of Edinburgh
- 1954-56** Military Service, Royal Artillery
- 1956-60** Edinburgh College of Art. Awarded Andrew Grant Scholarship (in Glass Design) on graduation for further study in Europe.
- 1960-61** Extensive travels in Europe and Scandinavia
- 1961-63** Living in United States of America. Works as glass designer for Steuben Glass. Undertakes intensive study of materials used in construction industry that may be employed in art forms. Marries and after visiting several countries returns to United Kingdom
- 1964** Lives in Richmond, Surrey, and begins series of works in relief
- 1964-68** Visiting lecturer at Hornsey College of Art
- 1965** Receives first major commission for a specific architectural project
- 1966** Begins to develop three-dimensional sculpture. Birth of his daughter
- 1967** Designs complete cladding to two large architectural projects at Erith and Aldershot
- 1968** Moves to Worthing, Sussex, and converts old stables into studio. Relinquishes teaching post and works full-time as a sculptor. Birth of his son
- 1969-73** His executed work and published writings on the role of the artist working within the built environment result in further large-scale commissions and invitations to lecture on the aesthetics of concrete at the Cement and Concrete Association. Works as a member of the design team for the government project at Vauxhall, London
- 1974** Works with Geoffrey Jellicoe on landscape scheme incorporating large-scale sculpture for Department of the Environment Headquarters, London. Meets with Oscar Niemeyer in Paris and at his request visits Brazil. Designs complete elevational treatment in grp to new British High Commission in Lagos, Nigeria
- 1975** Invited to Hoglands by Henry Moore who gives praise to his work and encourages him to cast the working models prepared for large-scale work
- 1976** First group of small bronzes accepted by Marlborough Fine Art, London. Designs all precast and in-situ concrete to Public Records Office, Kew, Surrey
- 1977-78** Period of intensive development. Patronage by Wates Limited creates the opportunity to realise the works in bronze. The sketches made during annual visits to Scotland are developed in reliefs
- 1978** First one-man exhibition at Burleighfield. Exhibits at International Exposition, Monaco
- 1978-82** Visiting lecturer in Environmental Design, Bournemouth College of Art
- 1979** Exhibits at Royal Academy, London. First commission for a public-sited sculpture in London -

- Wingate Centre, The Minories
- 1981** Moves to village of Great Plumstead in Norfolk
- 1982** Building of new studio is completed
- 1983** Installation of first public-sited sculpture in USA - 19th Street, Washington D.C.
- 1985** Exhibits at Alwyn Gallery, London - Chadwick, Frink etc
- 1985-86** Installation of sculptured precast concrete retaining walls to section of M25 London Orbital Road. Based upon a repetitive module, the work covers an area in excess of 6000 square metres
- 1988-90** Invited by Reg Ward, Chief Executive of London Docklands Development Corporation to join small design unit in planning development of Millwall Dock
- 1987** Invited to prepare designs for the figures of Poseidon and Demeter within the landscape project created by Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe for the Moody Gardens, Galveston, USA
- 1988-89** Proposals for Poseidon and Demeter accepted
- 1989** Lecture on his work given by the sculptor to Landscape Institute at Royal Academy, London
- 1990** Berkeley Square Gallery - British and European Sculpture 1928-1990 Lecture 'Sculpture and the Environment' - Norfolk Art in Architecture Group
- 1991** Proposal for further sculpture, 'The Spirit of Buddha', accepted by Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe for Moody Gardens. Elected to Royal Society of British Sculptors. Exhibits at Norwich Cathedral - Triennial Festival.
- 1992** Nominated by Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe to execute large-scale sculpture within his landscape proposals for the Historic Society of Atlanta, Georgia, USA.  
ARABESQUE - stainless steel, Monks Cross Centre, York  
Invited to lecture on his work by various Landscape Institutes, illustrated talks given in Singapore, Perth, Sydney, San Francisco and School of Architecture, Houston University
- 1993** Awarded Sir Otto Beit Memorial Medal by Royal Society of British Sculptors  
Proposals submitted for monumental-size work to new building in Singapore designed by Professor Kenzo Tange
- 1994** Exhibited - 'Sculptors Drawings', Sladmore Gallery, London  
. Invited to submit proposals for large-scale work to offices designed by Foster and Partners
- 1995** CONTINUUM - stainless steel sculpture commissioned by John Menzies PLC for new divisional headquarters, Edinburgh
- 1996** JUBILATE - bronze, purchased by Flemings Merchant Bank for their collection of Scottish art  
Exhibits - Gallerie les Hirondelles, Coppet, Switzerland
- 1997** QUESTOR - stainless steel sculpture, commissioned for Aldermanbury development, Bradford
- 1999** Finalist, international competition, Festival Square, Edinburgh  
QUESTOR - stainless steel sculpture commissioned by Xansa Group for their Scottish headquarters, Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh
- 2001** TRIUNE - granite sculpture/fountain for Monks Cross Technology Park, York  
HELIOS - stainless steel sculpture  
Wins competition to provide sculpture for Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital
- 2002** HELIOS installed to exterior of Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital
- 2003** Moves to outskirts of Galashiels in the Borders region of Scotland
- 2004** Appointed Art Strategy Consultant by SPH for their Edinburgh waterfront development master planned by Foster and Partners  
Exhibits at Cyril Gerber Fine Art Gallery, Glasgow
- 2007** Open Eye Gallery Edinburgh - "Seven Sculptures"
- 2008** Stainless steel sculpture "ASPIRATION" Greenock
- 2014** Edinburgh Art Festival - Open Eye Gallery - Two Man Show with Leon Morrocco
- 2019** Bronze sculpture " EPSILON" Marchmont House, Greenlaw
- 2020** Borders Art Festival, Kelso - Talk on his work
- 2022** Hilton Canopy Hotel, Minories, London - Bronze "RIDIRICH"  
Hotel La Tour, Milton Keynes, Stainless steel sculpture "Cycloidal Form"
- 2023** RHS Club website publication with substantial article and photographs

## Some of Keith's Sculptures



**COVENANT** - Royal Executive Park, Rye, New York



**ORACLE** - Vegans Mill, Docklands, London



**EPSILON** - Bronze, 42cm, edition of three



**QUESTOR** - Godwin Street, Bradford, West Yorkshire



**ASPIRATION** - Riverside Business Park, Greenock



**RIDRICH**  
Wingate Centre, London



**BRASILIA**  
Bronze, 30cm, edition of three



**JUPITER**  
Cophthorne, Sussex



**ENCOUNTER**  
NCC-Guys Hospital, London



**NEXUS** - Royal Executive Park, Rye, New York