

A SELECTION OF SCULPTURES IN HIRTSHALS

The history of Hirtshals goes back to the development of the port in the North-Western corner of Vendsyssel. The port was built in the years 1919-31 by the engineer Jørgen Fibiger, whose name you will still meet while going around town. After a large extension in 1966 the port today is one of Denmark's largest fishing ports, but equally important are the ferry routes to Norway and the Faroe Islands. The most popular tourist attraction in Hirtshals is the Northsea Oceanarium, displaying an exhibition of the life of the Northsea.

Naturally, the sea is of great importance in many of the sculptures and art works in Hirtshals, but you will also meet quite experimental art works, such as Mogens Møller's *The Bunker Secret Site*, an nonassicable art work in one of the German defense bunkers of WW2, and *The Stairs*, a monumental cross over between sculpture and architecture, conceived by Mogens Møller and Dorte Dahlin.

Møller, Mogens and others. THE BUNKER Secret Site, 1994. Bunker at Hirtshals Klint, ca. 250 m. south-west off Hirtshals lighthouse, Fyret, Hirtshals

There is a secret inside a bunker that will be revealed on the 24th of November 2045, 50 years after the artwork was originally placed here. Time seems to stand still in the bunker while life rushes along outside.

Friis, Anders. Bird (Fugl), 1998. Leret, Kystvejen, Hirtshals

Powerful and magnificent, this large bird of prey has momentarily landed by the coast. Friis' bird sculptures are simple but extremely effective.

Heide, Erik. Happy Fish (Glad fisk), 1989. Leret, Kystvejen, Hirtshals

What is a happy fish? Erik Heide's bronze fish has obvious associations to the fishing harbor of Hirtshals, and its optimistically waving tail seems to promise a bright future.

Larsen, Johnny. Sea Creature at Play (Legende havdyr), 1997. Nørregade / Hjørringgade / Jørgen Fibigersgade, Hirtshals

The large fish twines itself playfully around the rock, and its strong muscles will soon free it of the rock and let it swim off on its own to a new life.

Bovin, Sven. Fisherman's Son (Fiskerdrengen), 1982. Kystvejen / Havnegade, Hirtshals

The young man who looks out to sea is a well-known part of Hirtshals' history, where generation after generation was dependent on the sea for a living. Bovin's simplified style reinforces the impression of a young man who knows what the future has in store for him.

Dahlin, Dorte. The Green Square (Den Grønne Plads), 1993. Kystvejen / Havnegade, Hirtshals

This piece of land art ties the city and harbor together in this corner of Vendsyssel. The artist was also part of the team who created the large stairway which connects the city, perched on a knoll, with the harbor that clings to the beach at sea-level.

Møller, Mogens og Dorte Dahlin. Stairway (Trappen), 1997. Kystvejen / Havnegade / Havnen, Hirtshals

This stairway connects the town and harbor areas of Hirtshals. Like a great cascade, it pours down the slope and creates a unity of upper and lower levels of the town.

Hunter, Janice. Gables and All (Gavl med det hele), 2007. Lauras Plads, Nørregade, Hirtshals

This relief is created in memory of the married couple who have lived in this house for many years. The woman is a triangular form, and the man is star-shaped.

Larsen, Johnny and Palle Mørk. Hirtshals Dinghy (Hirtshals-jolle), 2000. Runddelen / Jyllandsgade, Hirtshals

This dinghy, which is a modern interpretation of the wooden vessels which were used in coastal fisheries in the past, is a stark contrast to the high-tech fishing ships of today.

Louveau, Jean Pierre. Prosperity Over the City (Bærer lykke over byen), 1995. Jørgen Fibigersgade / Jernbanegade, Hirtshals

These prehistoric symbols (helleristninger) are part of the Danish tradition. They were powerful signs that had special meanings for prehistoric people: the weather, hunt, travel by boat. Louveau updates these symbols, and shows a continuity between the needs of our ancestors, and our needs.

Dam, Bodil. Mother Sea (Havmoren), 2005. Hirtshals gl. Rådhus, Jørgen Fibigersgade 20, Hirtshals

Many know mother earth, the all-embracing woman, from whom life springs. In Hirtshals, Mother Sea is of equal importance. This heavy female form is at peace with itself, patient and looking forward to the return of the men from the sea.

Ørntoft, Claus. Sea Creature (Havdyr), 2005. Hirtshals gl. Rådhus, Jørgen Fibigersgade 20, Hirtshals

Claus Ørntoft's animal sculptures are imaginary creatures that share a heritage with the dangerous gargoyles created for churches by medieval stone masons. This one is a fish that seems to long for the sea.

Foersom Hegndal, Valdemar. Bente, 1973. Jernbanegade / Jyllandsgade, Hirtshals

With very simple means, the artist forms the concept 'young woman'. Peace, harmony and balance are part of the appearance of this delicate sculpture which encompasses a vulnerable sweetness and gentle pride.

Visby, Dorte. From the North (Fra Nord), (2005). Fisketerminalen, Hirtshals Havn

The colors of this relief reflect colors and light around the Faroe Islands, where the fishermen of Hirtshals land their catch. The box forms seem to refer to the work of the Hirtshals Fisketerminal, where fish is unloaded, packed and sold.

Heide, Erik. Man Lifting a Fish Above His Head (Mand, der løfter fisk over hovedet), (1984). Ved Nordsøen, Willemoesvej, Hirtshals

For obvious reasons, many of Hirtshals' sculptures have the sea and fishing as their theme. This fisherman is part of that tradition, and proudly displays his catch.

Nielsen, Reinhardt. The Course of Life (Livets gang), 1981. Willemoesvej, Hirtshals

The decorative works on the bunker at Hirtshals tell of the passage of time, and of an era in which humans were dependent on the sun.

Tegllhus, Stinne. The Mermaid (Havfruen), 2000. Safirvej / Dalsagervej, Hirtshals

Hirtshals is home to a number of works by Stinne Tegllhus. These works spring from the close ties between Hirtshals and the sea. Freshly caught fish and magical creatures like mermaids make their way into Stinne Tegllhus' art.