

A SELECTION OF SCULPTURES IN HJØRRING

Hjørring is the capitol of the municipality and its only borough. The town had its borough rights in 1243, and the fact that there are no less than three churches from the 12th and 13th century close to each other in the center of town shows that already at that time this was a cultural center. There was a boom in population in second half of the 19th Century due to the railway's reaching town in the 1870s. In the same period Hjørring became the county center, and a lot of institutions were placed in town: Jail, hospital, library, and in the following decades a number of educational and cultural institutions such as an art museum in 1963, and hosting a great collection of primarily local art from 1945 onwards.

In Hjørring you will find the municipality's highest concentration of art works in public spaces. Since the 1960s an official arts council has been able to buy sculptures to the town with grants both from the municipality and from fundations and sponsors. The art works are made by the most renowned, Danish sculptors. There are more than 150 sculptures around town, and a stroll through town will also be a stroll through the history of Danish sculpture for the last 150 years. The route below is concentrated on the city center

Nørgaard, Bjørn. Fountain (Fontæne), 1989. P. Nørkjær's Plads, Hjørring

This fountain occupies the space like a baroque work of art. It encompasses references to Norse mythology, Christianity, the nature of sculpture and architecture, and just as its references seem fluid, so is its water, flowing in many directions.

Hake, Claes. The Ring (Ringen), 1993. Springvandspladsen, Hjørring

The ring is one of the first and simplest forms of decorative art in all cultures. This ring rises monumentally above the busy square, and its form is reflected by the still water of the pool.

Hake, Claes. Fire Pot (Ildgryde), 1993. Strømgade, Hjørring

The pot is one of the oldest forms of kitchenware. This pot may serve as a simple reminder to thoughtless, busy consumers that in the past, one could not survive without such necessities. Now, we must merely select color and style.

Funch, Edgar. The Hjørring Stone (Hjørring-stenen), 1972. Nørregade / Kirkepladsen, Hjørring

This sculpture is comprised of a great quantity of blocks that, together, create a living and dynamic whole. The form of the sculpture thereby creates a contrast to its material, which will remain unchanged for hundreds of years.

Westergaard, Laila. Jesus i Hjørring (Jesus in Hjørring), 2009. Kirkepladsen, GI. Hjørring

This relief shows Jesus surrounded by ordinary people. Jesus is the only figure with closed eyes, while all of the others look across the town square at the large church. By placing portraits of modern people together with a classical portrait of Jesus, the artist is able to work with themes of reality, ideals, knowledge and faith.

Poulsen, Axel. Fountain (Fontæne) 1935. Torvet, Vestergade / Nørregade / Stokbrogade, Hjørring

A boy and a dolphin play in this fountain as if they belong in the same element. Reliefs on the outside of the basin depict scenes of adulthood's toil and labor. This sculpture is an example of the vitalistic worship of body and nature which exemplifies much art of the 1930's.

Heide, Erik. A Greeting From That Which Was, To That Which Will Be (En hilsen fra det, der var til det, der kommer), 1984. Aksel Torv / Vestergade, Hjørring

The many parts of this sculpture tell the story of Hjørring as a craft- and trade-center. This particular part of Hjørring's history is important to the old part of town, near the museum, which tells of Hjørring's history right from the beginning.

Varming, Hanne. The Family, 1983. Torvet, Vestergade / Nørregade / Stokbrogade, Hjørring

This family on a bench is expressed in a way that one wants to sit with them and be a part of their family. With simplicity and strength, this sculpture shows unity, but one may also see some disagreement between the children.

Sørensen, Jens-Flemming. Universal Birth (Universel fødsel), (1974). Codanhus, Nørregade, Hjørring

Columns and spheres are simple forms that can contain a long story. "Universal

Birth" is the artist's suggestion about where we come from, and perhaps also what we become.

Damgaard-Sørensen, Henning. Relief, 1972. Codanhus, Nørregade, Hjørring

This sculptural relief is both geometrically stiff, and dynamic because of the movement of its many prisms. Take a walk along the length of it and experience how it constantly changes with a play of light, shadow and form on its surface.

Inoue, Jun-Ichi. Lizard with Egg (Øgle med æg), 1979. Beckers Plads / Søndergade, Hjørring

This long-necked animal guards its egg. This fountain is a classical example of the artist's fantastic imaginary creatures.

Olsen, Hans Pauli. The Clayman, 2002. Dronningensgade, by Vendsyssel Teater, Hjørring A man's figure is trying to build itself up out of clay. This actually a self-portrait of the artist, and one is led to think about artists who are made through their works.

Madsen, Erland Knudssøn. Blue Flower (Blå blomst), 1984. Cathrinegården, mellem Kongensgade og Jernbanegade, Hjørring

Blue flowers are a common theme in poetry, where they symbolize both memories and inspiration. Even though this flower is made of granite, it seems both poetic and moving.

Nygård, Øivind. Untitled (Uden titel), 1988. Hjørring, Banegårdspladsen, opposite Kongensgade

This sculpture stands as a great mass of worked and raw materials, and it seems difficult to determine where the artist has controlled his process, and where the material has lived a life of its own.

Ørntoft, Claus. Suspense (Spændingsfelt), 2003. Banegårdspladsen / Jernbanegade, Hjørring

Two almost identical imaginary creatures look at each other across a busy road. Their tense glances connect them visually, and create the suspense of the title.

Buhl, Jan. Bull's Well (Tyrebrønd), 1951. Brinck Seidelins Gade / Amtmandstoften, Hjørring

The large bull stands, tamed, in the middle of a modern city. Jan Buhl has depicted the animal's latent strength and temper in the taught muscles, the lowered head, and the heavy body.

Bovin, Sven. Resting Mammoth (Hvilende mammut), 1969. Mammutpladsen, Hjørring

Bovin's sculptures are often inspired by the natural shapes of the rocks. Only a little is chiseled away before the form of the animal peers forth. The mammoth lies heavy and stable in place, and leads our thoughts back to prehistory.

Winther, Poul. Vandkunst (Fountain), 1993. Sams Passage / Østergade / Mammutpladsen, Hjørring

When he created this fountain, the artist was inspired by the music of jazz trumpet player Chet Baker. It is supposed to reflect the melancholy melodies of Baker's music.