

GOING OUT WITH ANIMALS

Now-a-days a lot of artists are fond of making animal sculptures, just as artists have been since prehistoric times. Both well-known animals of the local fauna and more exotic ones have been motives of both painters and sculptors, and the same goes for fantasy creatures. In an artwork the characters of the animals will often reflect matters that are important to us humans, matters we long for, and through the artwork we may recognize ourselves in the animals' characters.

You will need a car.

Heide, Erik. Kollund Bird # 3 (Kollund-Fugl nr. 3), 1986. Vrå School, Vestre Skolevej, Vrå

This little bird in cast-iron is a vulnerable baby, which is evident in spite of the material in which it is made. The soft lines of the sculpture, and its rounded form, make it an excellent play-sculpture for the school children who like to climb on it.

Ørntoft, Claus. Belly Up (Bugvendt), 2003. Vrå School, Vestre Skolevej, Vrå

This friendly beast that shows its belly and invites one to climb on it, has a special talent: it can tell if one is lying! The artist says, one just needs to lay one's hand in its mouth and if it bites down- bad news, you've lied. Try it if you dare!

Odgaard, Thorvald. Untitled (Uden titel), 1989. Jernbanegade, Vrå

These sculptures are abstractions on a bird theme, and from each column, peers a bird with outstretched wings.

Bunton, Ole. The Mussel (Blåmuslingen), 1995. Nørregade / Harald Fischers Vej, Løkken

This mussel looks like one that could be found on the beach, a few hundred meters to the west. The closed form, the crack to the interior, and the small spray of water make this sculpture secretive and mysterious, though its form is well-known.

Dam, Bodil. Angry Seagull (Vrede måge), 2007. Torvet, Løkken

Gulls are known for their greediness and noisy squawking in their search for food. One of them has landed here, in the middle of town, and is aggressively defending its pile of food.

Unger, Klaus. Løkken Fish (Løkkenfisk), 2002. Nørregade, Løkken

These reliefs make up part of the artist's decoration of Nørregade. Fish and fishing implements refer to Løkkens close connection to the sea.

Tegllhus, Stinne. Round-about Fish (Rundfisk), 2004. Harald Fischers Vej / Vrenstedvej, Løkken

The county is home to a number of works by Stinne Tegllhus. These works spring from the close ties between Hirtshals and the sea. The wealth of the sea is replicated with simplicity in massive stone.

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

Buhl, Jan. Tyrebrønd, 1951. Brinck Seidelins Gade, Hjørring

This 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.

Louveau, Jean Pierre. Fugl Fønix, 1995. Nørrebro / Skagensvej, Hjørring

This sculpture is a Phoenix bird, rising from the flames. The egg-shapes flames refer to the safety and warmth that meet the people living in the home for the elderly just next to the sculpture.

Holm, Flemming. Dragon (Drage), 1995. Thomas Morilds Vej 11, Hjørring

This dragon may appear ferocious, but it is a patient creature, which willingly lets children climb on its back.

Olesen, Karin. Unicorn (Enhjørning), 1990. Hubertusparken, Hjørring

This unicorn is made of recycled materials and refers to the name of the housing area "Hubertusparken" (The Saint Hubert's Park). But does this symbolism refer to the crushed horsepower of the cars, or does it refer to the myth of the Belgian Saint Hubertus, patron saint of the hunt?

Friis, Anders. Fugl, 1998. Leret, Kystvejen, Hirtshals

The granite birds are both nature and abstraction at once. The artist creates the concept for 'bird' with simple means, such as the highly polished beak.

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.

Bovin, Sven. Sea Horse (Søhest), 1972. J. Fibigers Gade 20, Hirtshals

The sea horse is one of the strange creatures of the sea. With its little trumpet mouth and a swirl on its tail it could be a creature from another planet, even if it is made from solid granite.

Larsen, Johnny. Sea Creature at Play (Legende havdyr), 1997. Nørregade / Havnegade, 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.

Jensen, Peter. Animalsculpturen (Dyreskulpturer), date unknown. Skagen Landevej, Bjergby

Peter Jensen was a folk artist without any formal training. He decided to fill his garden with exotic animals which he made of recycled materials. The animals that have been preserved, now stand as a humorous surprise hidden in the hills of Northern Jutland.

Ørntoft, Claus. Thunder Calf (Tordenkalv), 1999. Nørrebro, Bindslev

The little calf seems to be on its way out of the rock. It is full of energy, and perhaps a bit dangerous. The artist finds inspiration among the imaginary creatures of the middle ages, and with very simple means, seems to wake the power of the natural stone to life.

Helledie, Niels. The Golden Calf (Guldkalven), date unknown. Nørregade, Sindal

The Golden Calf stands in front of the entrance to the church's meeting hall as a reminder that we should seek the spiritual, not material goods.

Ørntoft, Claus. Two Animals / Little Space (To dyr / lille plads), 1994. Søndergade, Lendum

The two animals are on their way out of their respective blocks of stone in front of the local supermarket. One almost expects them to rise up and go running off into the landscape. Until then, one can take a rest on the bench between them- if one dares.