

A SELECTION OF SCULPTURES BY ERIK HEIDE (BORN 1934)

Erik Heide works in metal, stone, and cast iron. He has made sculptures for public spaces in a great number of towns and cities, and he is renowned for his altar pieces and other decorations in churches across the country. You may visit the Vrå Valgmenigheds church to see one of them.

Erik Heide's pictorial language is closely related to the rough materials. Big shapes, simple lines, and organic surfaces, cut into granite or shaped in clay before being cast in iron or bronze. In his works for churches, Erik Heide is preoccupied with the Bible's stories and the big questions of mankind. In his profane sculptures he works both abstract and figurative, emphasizing animals such as sheep, birds, and fish. In Hjørring Municipality you will find most of Heide's expressions present.

Heide, Erik. The Cliff and the Staff (Klippen og staven), 1994. South of Sindal Church, Nørregade, Sindal

This sculpture belongs to Sindal Church. It represents a modern version of the story of Moses who taps his staff on a cliff to bring forth a spring so the Israelites may drink on their journey from Egypt.

Heide, Erik. Man Lifting a Fish Over His Head (Mand, der løfter fisk over hovedet), (1984). In front of Nordsøen Oceanarium, 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.

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.

Heide, Erik. Eternal Flower (Evighedsblomst), 1986. Vesterled, Vester Allé, Hjørring

The fountain is an eternal flower that will stand unchangeable for many years into the future. The delicacy of real flowers which only live a short time is in sharp contrast to the heaviness of the cast-iron fountain.

Heide, Erik. Flock of Birds (Fugleflok), 1965. Smutten, Hjørring

This flock of birds seems to fly over the square, just like a real flock. But the bronze birds are frozen in their flight and we will forever hear their calling.

Heide, Erik. Fountain (Vandkunst), 1985. Nørretorv, Hjørring

This fountain reminds the viewer of a tree with trunk and branches, from which the water trickles. The combination of rock, tree motif, and water seems to refer to cycles of change, permanence, and the immaterial.

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, 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.

Heide, Erik. Young Animal (Ungt dyr), 1993. Hjørringhus, Vestergade, Hjørring

Erik Heide's animal sculptures are often simplified abstractions of the characteristics of that animal. This newborn calf stands on wobbly legs, and is on the verge of finding its balance.

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.