



**Douglas Van Howd Studio
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By Leslie Horton, VP AABPA**

The depth and breadth of Douglas Van Howd's artwork is noteworthy with a global reach for his breathtaking bronze sculptures, monuments, oil paintings and photography covering famous people, animals, whales and numerous historical and wildlife pieces. Despite being well known in Washington DC and by heads of state in foreign countries, Douglas Van Howd is a local treasure here in Auburn.

Building their beautiful studio on 3 acres within the Auburn Airport Business Park, their business is located at 13333 New Airport Road. Douglas and Nancy enjoy living in Auburn, love the convenience of the Auburn Airport and are avid pilots. They were the first couple to build a private hangar at the airport.

Douglas was raised at King's Beach at Lake Tahoe and began his art career at age eight. Douglas and Nancy met as teenagers and worked together with Kaz Textile Paint and Kaz Hobby Shop where Douglas made textile paints distributed worldwide and Nancy taught craft classes. This was in addition to attending high school. Along the way they fell in love, got married and had a family. Douglas attended the Art Center School in Los Angeles while Nancy secured her degree and teaching credential at Pepperdine. He then became Art Director at Aerospace Corporation in Los Angeles. Subsequently they moved to Redlands for ten years and opened their own studio. Finally they searched the Western United States seeking a permanent home and decided Auburn was the perfect place. Nancy has always been totally supportive of Douglas and ensures the business side of the studio runs smoothly.

Douglas met Governor Ronald Reagan through the Mzuri Wildlife Foundation which commissioned him to create a lion sculpture, their insignia, that is presented to their special speakers and this lovely piece was presented to Governor Reagan. After Reagan was elected President of the United States, Douglas was invited to the White House Oval Office and subsequently appointed as the White House Artist serving under the Reagan and Bush Administrations. President Reagan and Mr. Van Howd would always meet at the end of the day, avoiding the time pressed work day schedule, and discuss the joy of riding horses, the appreciation for Native American life and the interest in Western artwork. As White House Artist, Douglas created amazing art pieces for the White House and for various Heads of State around the globe.

With a vitality and ongoing creative energy, Douglas has a steady pipeline of projects ahead. Currently he is busy finalizing two bronze monuments of President/Governor Reagan: one that will go into the California State Capitol Building and another that will be displayed in the President Reagan Library. Then there is a massive elephant sculpture underway for delivery to the new Tanzanian Cultural Center. Douglas is concerned on how the 9,000 pound bronze sculpture will be safely transported there.

In May his bronze monument of World War II ace Colonel Bud Anderson complete with his "Old Crow" P-51 Mustang airplane was unveiled at the Auburn Airport with celebrities, politicians and Sacramento Region residents in enthusiastic attendance. Douglas volunteered his time feeling it was such an honor to create this monument for an amazing, local WWII hero.

The Van Howd art work also includes dinosaurs, wild horses, scenes from the Western frontier and so many other amazing subjects. He has done more than 50 monuments in his spectacular career. Perhaps because of Mr. Van Howd's forty-seven trips to African and comprehensive wildlife art work, he and Nancy are avid wildlife conservationists. Douglas expressed his concerns that an African elephant is poached every 15 minutes decimating the herds from ten million to less than one million. Black rhinos are now extinct in Kenya and there only about a dozen left in Tanzania.

