

Les Manning IAC Emeritus Page

Les Manning C.M. IAC

Les Manning spent most of his artistic career in his home province of Alberta, Canada. Yet not only has he made Canadian studio ceramics internationally recognized, he has brought international studio ceramics to Canada like no other artist or educator. What he introduced into Canada from abroad and how he introduced Canada to the world were, and still are, transformative.

Les was instrumental in promoting crafts, especially ceramics, in Canada. A few of his accomplishments are: 1971-3, President, Alberta Potters' Association (APA); Chair of the, *International '73* Exhibition and Conference in Banff/Calgary, for the APA under auspices of the IAC; in 1974-5, the first President of the Canadian Craft Council; and in 1986-8, President, Alberta Crafts Council. Much of this was done as he established and directed the renowned ceramics programme at the Banff School of Fine Arts, Banff, Alberta. More recently Les left another lasting imprint as Artistic Director of the state-of-the-art Medalta International Artists in Residence Program, Medicine Hat, Alberta..

Also Les' participation in and support of the International Academy of Ceramics (IAC) has been longstanding: in 1990, he was nominated to the Board of Directors of the IAC; in 1992 he served as a member of the Council of the IAC, representing Canada; and in 1994 he served as a Vice President of IAC, representing North America; in 1999 he was nominated for President of the IAC.

Formal recognition of his contribution to Canadian ceramics was capped when in 2011 he was named a Member of the Order of Canada, and then awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012.

These accomplishments only scratch the surface of his extensive range of activities.

Though international in influence Les Manning's art remained true to Alberta. His love for the Canadian Rockies as a subject are renowned. Mountain landscape vessel forms are his best known creations, multi-layered works that play with space, light, colour and surface.

In his more recent years Les Manning explored dramatically new sculptural directions with frequent references to modernism, often drawing on memories of his youth. New colours, simple, stylized forms - rounded, cut or planar – express a deep inner expression of which few had been aware.

Les retired in May 2017.