

Ken Gray (1943 - 1994)



Mr. Gray was born June 19, 1943 in Ilford, England. He studied civil engineering before his interest turned to art. He earned a bachelor's degree in art at Brighton Polytechnic University in Sussex, England, and a master's degree from the Royal College of Art in London.

In 1980, he and his family moved from England to the United States where Ken taught at Memphis State University. In the summer of 1981, the Grays drove to Alaska, where Mr. Gray accepted a teaching position in the sculpture department at the University of Alaska Anchorage. In March of 1994 he was forced to retire due to his health. During those thirteen years he became one of the most influential figures in contemporary art in Alaska by challenging those who viewed his art to see and experience life in new ways. He felt deeply honored when the University awarded him the title of professor emeritus.

His family said, "Ken loved teaching and working with his students. At the same time, he remained a creative and dedicated artist. His recent works were influenced by his deep spirituality. He was a loving father and husband. Ken's boundless energy and his love of life will remain an inspiration to his family and friends. He will always be remembered and loved."

Mr. Gray died of cancer on July 13, 1994 at his home in Anchorage, Alaska, surrounded by his family.