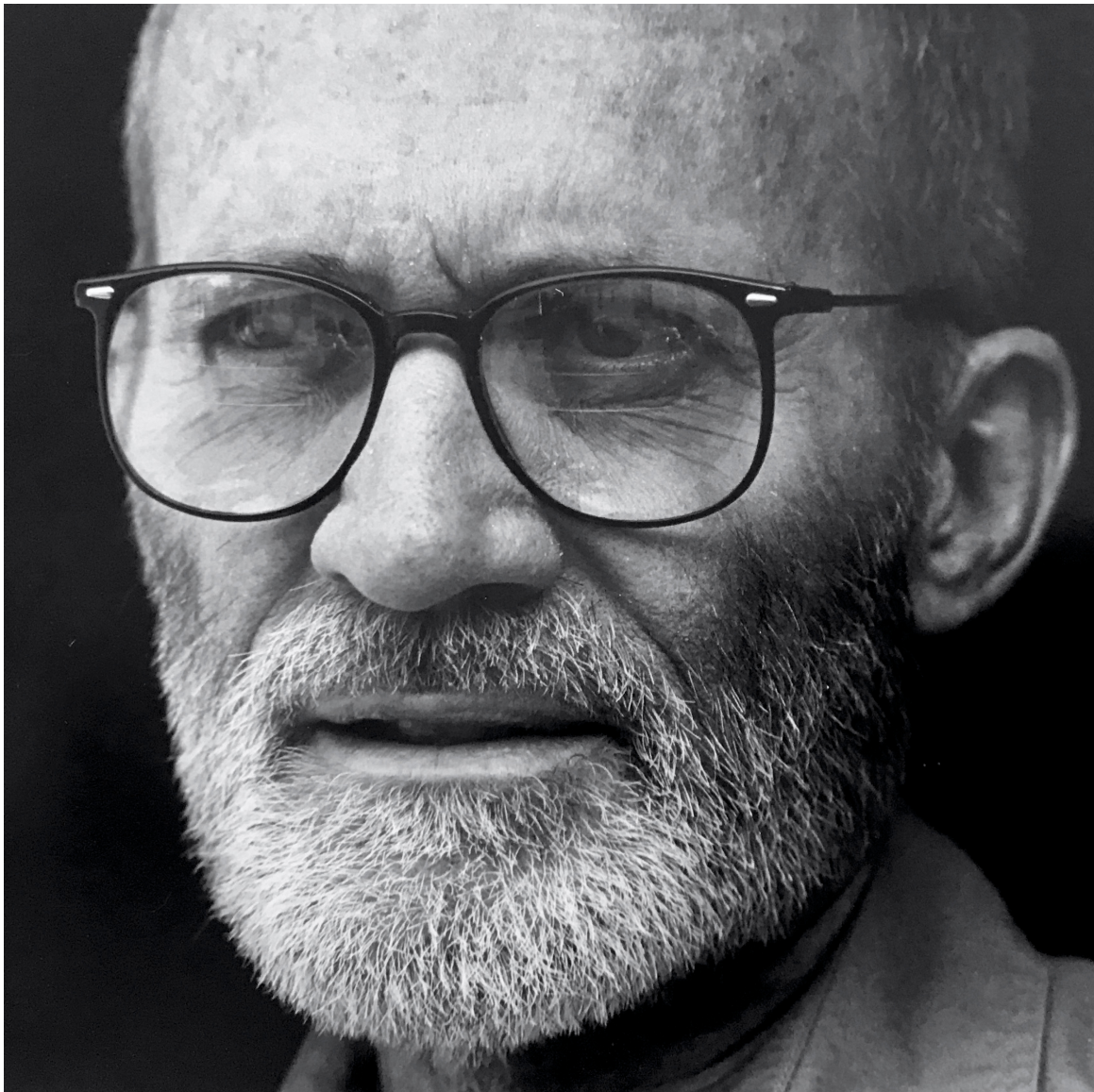


# MEDIA KIT



**CHARLES FORRESTER**  
**SCULPTOR | 1928-2010**

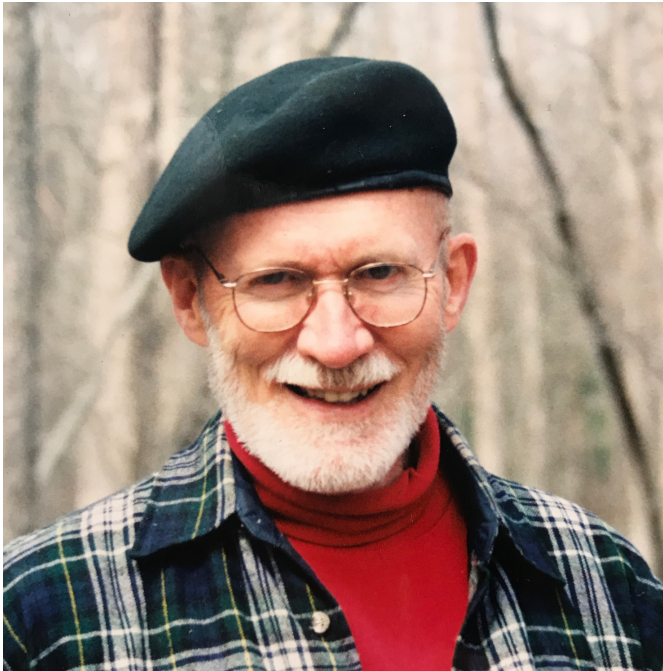
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# CHARLES FORRESTER SCULPTOR | 1928-2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 7, 2021



**Bowling Green, KY** – A retrospective exhibition of the sculpture and drawings of the late Charles H. Forrester is coming to the **Downing Museum at the Baker Arboretum**, Bowling Green, KY, in September 2021. This will be the first opportunity for the public to view a large-scale exhibit of his artwork since the artist's death in 2010. The exhibit dates are September 14 through November 13, 2021.

In addition, a screening of the award-winning documentary film, **A Line Unbroken: The Charles Forrester Story** will be held at the **Capitol Arts Center** on September 16, at 6 PM. A discussion will be held afterwards with the artist's daughter, Winifred Forrester; WKU Art Historian, Guy Jordon; and former student and sculptor, Russ Faxon. The documentary has a fully illustrated companion art book, **A Mind in Motion: The Art of Charles H. Forrester**, published in 2020. With insight from art historians and contemporary artists, the film and art book explore his compelling life story and six decades of artwork.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

As a university professor for 30 years in England and Kentucky, with roots in New York and the Pacific Northwest, he directly impacted generations of sculptors and artists. Forrester grew up in New York City and received his Master of Fine Arts at the **University of Oregon** in 1960. He taught sculpture at the **University of Salford** in England and **Western Kentucky University**, where he was a long-time beloved professor. Forrester also maintained a studio in the artists' haven of eclectic East Nashville for the last 12 years of his life.

Forrester was the master of the visual pun and comes to life through his legacy - sculptures, paintings and drawings, and journals. He was especially adept at working with the human figure, creating abstracted figurative forms in materials ranging from **welded steel** to **laminated-plywood**. His engineering prowess is reflected in his **kinetic sphere** sculptures and **wire suspension** works. His artwork captured startlingly realistic details, yet his works are highly stylized - often twisted into sly visual puzzles and riddles.



The artist's large concrete outdoor sculptures installed across the United States and England are among his most well-known works, including **The Equestrian**, a 25-foot horse and rider that still stands at the western entrance to Springfield, Oregon. Many of his smaller sculptures cast in bronze and aluminum are in private collections, with the remainder held by the Forrester Family Art Collection.

## RELATED QUOTES

"Having a conversation with my father, it was a mind-opening experience. He viewed the world differently. You'd just be driving down the road looking out the window, and he looked out the window and he saw something different. Everything he did was looking for ideas about sculpture .... everything he did, and everywhere he looked, he was looking for ideas about sculpture and art. He lived, breathed and thought about making artwork, all the time." - **Winifred Forrester, daughter**

"He was meticulous in his planning and engineering from the very beginning... all the way to the finished surface. I never knew if Chuck was an engineer stuck in a sculptor's body or a sculptor stuck in an engineer's mind. But they always intermingled." - **Russ Faxon, sculptor, Tennessee**

"Charles Forrester was without a doubt, a fox – clever, creative, curious, and constantly crafting analogies between things, a master of the visual pun" - **Guy Jordan, WKU Art Historian**

"I didn't know Charles Forrester face to face, but as artists, we're connected through almost an unbroken line. I know him. I just never met him." - **Kristina Arnold, WKU Art Department Head**

"Forrester's [Equestrian statue in Springfield, Oregon, 1950] has become part of the fabric of the community and has endured the test of time." **Caroline Phillips, Curatorial Extern, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, University of Oregon**

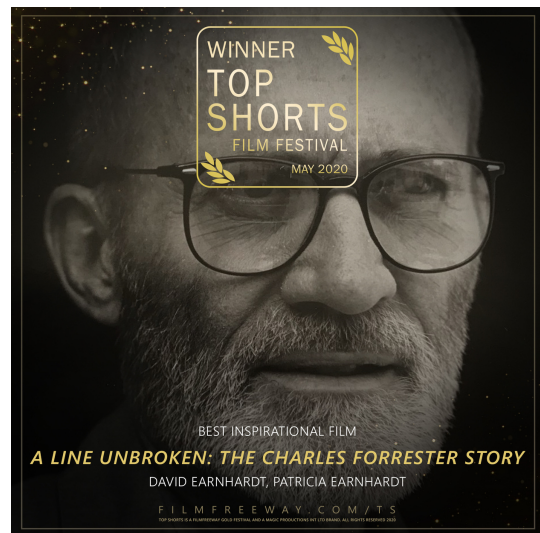
"The art book provides a detailed dive into the creative life of Charles Forrester, from Ouija Board drawings to the human form and metaphysics with a thorough understanding of his creative processes, inspirations, and individual works of art... defining the man, the father, and the artist. To quote Forrester, 'It is the artist's duty to seek meaning in chaos', and this artful book does just that." - **Jack LeSieur, Director, Downing Museum**

"Charles Forrester's story is inspiring, he was such a unique artist. Good interviews... the film was very well edited, keeping the viewer intrigued throughout." **Top Shorts Film Festival**

## THE DOCUMENTARY

The award-winning short documentary film follows his life story and contributions to the art world. The film won **Best Inspirational Film Award** at the **Top Shorts Film Festival** and was selected for the **2020 Louisville's International Festival of Films**. It premiered in 2020 on the **WKU-PBS** channel and aired on the **KET-PBS** channel statewide in Kentucky. In 2021, the executive producer, Winifred Forrester, **signed a three-year contract with NETA** to distribute the film to **PBS stations** around the country. The film was directed and produced by David and Patricia Earnhardt of Earnhardt Films, LLC of Nashville, Tennessee.

The award-winning short documentary, ***A Line Unbroken: The Charles Forrester Story***, follows his life story and contributions to the art world. Click [HERE](#) for the link to the trailer.



## BRIEF FILM SYNOPSIS

A gifted sculptor and artist, Charles H. Forrester (1928-2010), left his unique imprint on this world — his artwork spans six decades and comes to life through his sculpture, drawings and journals. The 28-minute documentary profiles his intriguing life and artwork ranging from his more well-known monumental outdoor sculptures to masterfully engineered wire suspension and dynamic figurative abstract works.

## EXECUTIVE PRODUCER BIO



**Winifred Forrester**, daughter of Charles Forrester, took a sabbatical in 2018 from her long career as a financial advisor to curate her father's artwork and journals covering nearly 60 years. She is executive producer for the award-winning short documentary, ***A Line Unbroken: The Charles Forrester Story***.

Forrester is a long-time resident of Nashville, Tennessee, where she advocates for the revitalization of historical neighborhoods and green spaces. As a community organizer, she fuels her passion to return power to ordinary people. Forrester co-founded the Haynes-Trinity Neighborhood Coalition and is a member of the TennGreen Land Conservancy's finance and investment committee, the Metro-Nashville Industrial Development Board and has served on the board of the League of Women Voters Nashville. ***A Mind in Motion: The Art of Charles H. Forrester*** is her first book.

## WINIFRED FORRESTER'S QUOTES

"My brother and I always knew our family was different from others, and growing up we lived a bohemian lifestyle fueled by creativity and frugality. My father's lifelong passion created a legacy of six decades of sculptures, and we knew his story was one worth telling."

"He viewed the world differently. It was a mind-opening experience. You'd just be driving down the road looking out the window, and he looked out the window and he saw something different. Everything he did was looking for ideas about sculpture."



# CHARLES FORRESTER SCULPTOR | 1928-2010

## PRODUCER STATEMENT

As children, my brother and I always knew our family was different from others. We lived a bohemian lifestyle fueled by creativity and frugality. Our father, Charles Forrester, built the family's furniture using plywood and black paint, while sculpture was stacked all over the house and yard. We moved frequently and for a time, we lived on a boat in Union Bay, Seattle and spent summers living at lookout fire stations in the Northwest wilderness. Over the years, our family frequently travelled to foreign countries living in cheap pensions while our father found inspiration for his creativity in their architecture and culture.

He met my mother, Dorothy Reese, in New York City in 1951. She was a graduate of Barnard College and had recently returned from studies at the University of Zurich. They married within weeks, and their loving partnership lasted fifty-three years. She ghost-wrote his artist statements, edited his thesis, acted as publicist and agent and was his muse for most of her life.

Our father graduated from the University of Washington in 1958, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts, and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Oregon in 1960. His teaching career spanned 30 years, directly impacting generations of sculptors and artists. Starting as a graduate teaching assistant at the University of Oregon, he spent several years as a sculpture instructor at Salford University near Manchester, England, and the rest of his tenure at Western Kentucky University. A beloved professor, his teacher-student relationships provided the inspiration for the title of the documentary film, ***A Line Unbroken: The Charles Forrester Story.***



# CHARLES FORRESTER SCULPTOR | 1928-2010

## PRODUCER STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

His frequent sabbaticals and residencies in Europe, the Middle East and the Americas provided him inspiration for his life-long passion. A prolific sculptor, he created over 550 sculptures during his lifetime, with the majority found in private collections or outdoor public art. Outdoor works were commissioned across the globe from Ashland, Oregon to Kentucky and Tennessee to Manchester, England.

In 1998, our parents moved to the eclectic artists' community of East Nashville, Tennessee, where he maintained a studio until his death in 2010. Although our parents are dead now, my brother and I knew their story was one worth telling. Our hope is to bring his artwork to a wider audience and add to his substantial legacy.

## DOCUMENTARY CAST

**Winifred Forrester** - daughter of Charles Forrester

**President Timothy Caboni** - Western Kentucky University (WKU)

**Provost David Lee** - WKU historian

**Kristina Arnold** - WKU Art Department Head and Professor

**Dr. Guy Jordon** - Associate Professor of Art History, WKU

**Dr. Neil Peterie** - former colleague and WKU professor

**Russ Faxon** - former student and figurative bronze sculptor

**Sam Hunt** - former student, WKU Adjunct Professor of Art

**Donnie Firkins** - former student and stone sculptor

**Caroline Phillips** - Curatorial Extern, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, University of Oregon



## FILM DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHIES

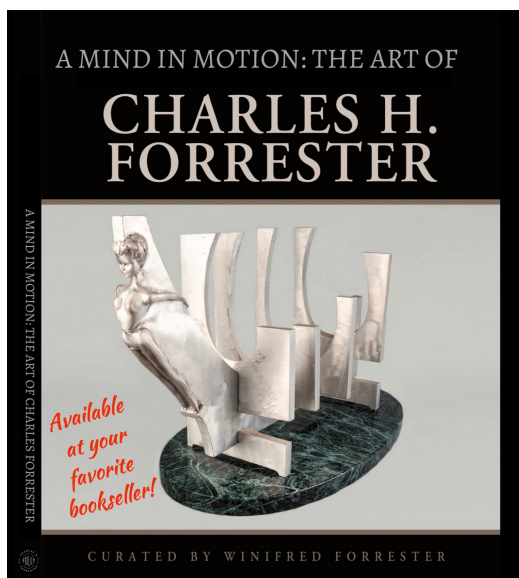


**David Earnhardt** is an Emmy award-winning producer/director and former broadcast executive with 38 years of experience as a filmmaker and television professional. He has produced and directed a wide range of productions through the years and worked at some of the top television stations in the country, before starting his own business

more than 20 years ago. David is a graduate of the University of North Carolina, where he majored in film studies.

**Patricia Earnhardt** has 32 years of experience in film and video, specializing in non-profit communications, and has produced numerous national and regionally award-winning films through the years. She is also a visual artist, with an emphasis on video and installation art, and recently participated in a group show in Berlin, Germany. Patricia is a graduate of both Middle Tennessee State University, where she studied filmmaking, and Watkins College of Art & Design, where she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

## THE ART BOOK



The art book, **A Mind in Motion: The Art of Charles H. Forrester** was released in 2020 and offers an in-depth guide into the mind and life of the artist. Curated by his daughter, Winifred Forrester, a Nashville resident, and richly illustrated with more than eighty images along with a biography, and essays by art historians and former students. Available at online booksellers everywhere, it can also be purchased at the exhibition and film screening.

## ART BOOK CONTRIBUTORS



**Joe E. Nolan** is an art and film critic and intermedia artist based in Nashville, Tennessee. His writing about contemporary art has appeared in *Art America*, *Flaunt*, *Burnaway*, *Number*, *Nashville Scene*, and *The Contributor*. Nolan is a freelance arts reporter for WPLN, Nashville Public Radio. His award-winning writing about homelessness, poverty, veterans' issues and human rights has

been translated into German, Slovak and Greek, and published around the world. Nolan is also an East Nashville music pioneer and a visual artist/curator whose work has been exhibited throughout the Southeast.



**Dr. Guy Jordan** (Ph.D. in Art History, University of Maryland, 2007) is an Associate Professor of Art History in the Department of Art at Western Kentucky University, where he teaches courses in WKU's Art History and Brewing and Distilling Arts and Sciences programs. His writing on topics such as Thomas Cole, Charles Deas, and the roles of food and drink in American art has appeared in the journals: *American Art*, *Panorama*, and *Visual Resources*.

Additional contributors: **Winifred Forrester**, daughter; **Caroline Phillips**, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, University of Oregon; **John Forrester**, son of Charles Forrester, Rome, Italy; **Russ Faxon**, sculptor, Bell Buckle, TN; and **Sam Hunt**, Adjunct Professor of Art, Western Kentucky University.