

Almost Eagles

Karla Wyss Tye

Kalamazoo artist Karla Wyss Tye has spent her life observing and interpreting the natural world. Inspired by Georgia O'Keefe, her first works were abstract watercolor paintings of plants and animals.

When Karla married William Tye, they began a foundry and Karla started casting bronze figures. Her sculptures were a curious combination of humans and birds, their spirit, movements and emotions.

"I knew this man once, that laughed at my birds...he said, birds don't have shoulders!"

Both of Karla's daughters are dancers and she draws inspiration for her birds from their choreography. Her figures are quirky, they dance together and seem to speak to each other. Birds are the ancient symbol of the soul.

"You cannot hide from your art. It is a visual message of who you are and shows your likes and dislikes. It comes out of life experiences and the ones more familiar to you"... birds in Karla's world.



Walk around the sculpture

What do you see?

How many birds?

How many legs?

Why are the heads so small?

These are Karla's versions of birds.

Stand in the front of Almost Eagles.

Notice how the wings move in different directions.

Watch how the heads turn to face each other.

They appear to be chattering.

Walk to the back of sculpture

Do you see any differences?

Why did Karla Tye name the piece

Almost Eagles?



