

Biography Ken Huston

703-658-3953
mhuston703@aol.com
6338 Lakeview Drive
Falls Church, VA 22041

April 23, 1943: Born in Pittsburgh, PA. Parents move to Alexandria, VA, where Ken lives until his teen years. Though he visits the Smithsonian as a child, he never enters an art museum until adulthood.

1962-63: Graduated from high school. Took job as a bank teller. Career cut short when questioned as a suspect in a bank break in. Ken's alibi was verified by his girlfriend, who confirmed that he had called in sick in order to be with her. Later joined the Navy in lieu of being drafted.

1964: While on leave in boot camp, Ken made first visit to an art museum at the Art Institute of Chicago. This introduction to art was a turning point in his decision to become an artist. Was sent to Pensacola, FL to the Navy photography school. Upon completion of this program, he was assigned to the Naval Air Station in Norfolk, VA.

1967: Honorably discharged from the Navy.

1968-72: Accepted to Maryland Institute College of Art in the Photography Program. Supported himself as a freelance photographer. A son, Jeffrey Kenneth Huston, is born. Received BFA in fine art photography. Entered graduate school at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Ken begins exhibiting photography.

1973: At Lake Michigan, Ken finds a smooth, water-worn firebrick embossed with the words "TIFFANY GLAZED BRICK" partially buried in the sand. He finds the contradiction between the brute physicality of a brick and the precious quality associated with Tiffany glass to be fascinating. It was an epiphany that initiates his first sculptural act. The brick was displayed as sculpture in a dovetailed, walnut box with velvet lining.

1974: During his second year in graduate school, the Art Institute of Chicago presented an exhibition of Marcel Duchamp's work, which greatly influenced Ken's career.

1974: Received MFA in fine art photography from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

1975-78: Moved to Northern Virginia and worked as a self-employed freelance photographer. Employed as a part-time instructor in fine art photography at Northern Virginia Community College. Began making sculptures using primarily wood and found objects.

1979-84: Employed as a full-time instructor in fine art photography at Northern Virginia Community College and part-time at the Maryland Institute, College of Art.

1985-2000: While continuing as photography professor, Ken begins to exhibit only sculpture. He ceases to submit photography to exhibitions.

2000: Upon retirement from teaching, Ken pursues sculpture full-time.