

BIOGRAPHY

Claude Rioux was born in the spring of 1953 in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, near the Gulf of St Lawrence in Gaspésie/Québec. Attracted since childhood to all art forms, he develops creativity at a very young age. As a teenager he discovered a passion for oil painting. In 1988 he opened his first studio art gallery, 1000 Azure, in the Plateau Mont-Royal in Montréal where he met many artists.

He joined the circle of Painters and Sculptors of Quebec in 1989, and had success from the start. As of his first appearance at the National Visual Arts Competition, he won the bronze medal at the exhibition 120 at the Guy-Favreau Complex in Montréal. The following year he received an honorable mention for his second exhibition at the Royal Banquet Hall Select from Montreal. He even had one of his works exhibited at the Pyramid Gallery in the famous SoHo district of New York.

Unable to balance work and art, he left Montréal in 1992 to settle in his childhood town, Rivière-à-Claude in Gaspésie, where he began in 1993 the construction of its second studio art gallery, gallery magic Dragon Art. In 1996, he directed a project on their ancestral land, the Mountain of the Angels, where he wanted to create an environmental park museum to showcase this ancient forest and there establish a village of large format sculptures. This project did not materialize as expected but it remained the sculpture of the head of an angel coming out of the mountain and you can still see at the rest of the village. Later, he discovered Photoshop and it was a revelation for this tool, he was expanding his niche to computer graphics. So he left his studio a few years to study the electronic version of art. From 2000 to 2008 he studied in Quebec City in 3D Animation and Web Design.

Since returning to his village where his roots are planted, he has led a new project: to provide innovative service in the field of funerary art, and create a custom artwork to serve as a monument for those who would like to have something else than general stone. To this end, an appendix to his studio has been built in 2013 to double its size in order to have the space to manufacture these monumental sculptures.

To live with his art, he shifted his painting career to sculpture, which allowed him to make many lasting, monumental sculptures in the region, including Sam, Soldier, Cod, Saint Brother André. Professional sculptor recognized, he is now a member of the Quebec Crafts Council (CMAQ).

A multidisciplinary artist, he painted for the 60th anniversary of Murdochville town, a huge mural of nearly 200 feet long telling his story in pictures. Claude Rioux now uses all his time to make art and he is now emancipated because he does what he likes!