



J. Clayton Bright

Artist J. Clayton Bright was born in the Philadelphia area in 1946. After graduating from a New England boarding school, Clayton enlisted in the army, where he served in the paratroops and had a tour in Vietnam as a member of a long-range reconnaissance team. Following his discharge, he worked in Australia, and then hitchhiked through the Far East, Middle East, and Europe. Upon his return to Philadelphia, he worked at the stock exchange until he launched his career as a sculptor in 1977.

The inspiration to become a sculptor occurred when Clayton encountered a cow while walking through the Pennsylvania countryside in 1977. The curves of the animal's form made a great impression on him and gradually the idea of recreating the cow in bronze took root. A sculptor friend gave Clayton instruction in the craft, and explained the importance of sculpting works inspired by life. Clayton set up his sculpture stand in the field with the cow so that he could refer to her as he worked, and he finished his first piece, Neilson's Cow, in October of that year. Clayton now has a studio in the countryside west of Philadelphia.

Clayton is the sculptor of the American bison which is resting near the bank of the dry stream in the Childhood's Gate Children's Garden.



Reference: claytonbrightstudio.com

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