Intro label 24w" x 20h"

The Mustangs of Las Colinas

In 1976, internationally known wildlife artist Robert Glen was commissioned by Ben H. Carpenter to create a large outdoor sculpture as the signature piece for Las Colinas, Carpenter's new development in Irving, Texas.

Glen began his study of mustangs found in the United States and then travelled to Spain to research and view the purebred line of horses that were first brought to the Americas by the Spanish.

Returning to his studio in Nairobi, Kenya, Glen created 47 small models of mustangs in various stances for Mr. Carpenter to select from. Carpenter selected nine figures: two stallions, five mares, and two foals and requested that they be made in bronze for "they have to last forever." Carpenter instructed the architect to design the Williams Square buildings around the horses.

Next, half-size models of the nine mustangs were sculpted and shipped to the Morris Singer Foundry in Basingstoke, England. There the final casting of the mustangs at one-and-a-half times life-sized was made. In 1981, the completed horses were shipped by Pan American World Airways to John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York, then transferred to American Airlines and flown to Irving.

On September 26, 1984, eight years and three continents later, the Mustangs of Las Colinas sculpture was dedicated at Williams Square. The Mustangs are now an iconic part of Irving's history and one of the most visited sites in the area.

Artist label 24w" x 17h"

About the Artist

Kenya-born Robert Glen is an internationally acclaimed wildlife artist of Scotch ancestry who has lived in Africa most of his life. He left school with two overriding interests: natural history and art. Finding he could combine both in the study of taxidermy, he left Kenya for a three-year apprenticeship at the Coloman Jonas Studios, in Denver, Colorado. He also found time to study art and anatomy at night school.

Returning home in 1959, he devoted the next ten years to taxidermy, travelling across Africa from Cameroon to Madagascar making scientific collections of birds, small mammals, and reptiles for various North American museums.

In 1970, he took up sculpting full-time. Concentrating at first on African wildlife, his subject matter later expanded to include the African people and their domestic animals. Recognition soon followed, and his bronze sculptures are held in the collections of various patrons and museums throughout the world interested in wildlife and its preservation, including the Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II of England.

reno label 20" x 8"

As part of the 2021-2022 renovations to Williams Square, the Mustangs of Las Colinas were restored and repaired. The restoration team first sandblasted the statues down to the original bronze surface. The bronze used for the Mustangs is comprised of 87% copper and the natural aging process caused the surface to turn green. The sandblasting removed the oxidization. Next, the restoration team cleaned the sculpture to remove any residue leftover from the sandblasting and repaired structural cracks. A new layer of patina was applied under the direction of Robert Glen, who participated in the process virtually. Once the right shade of patina was achieved, bronze work artisans applied a protective layer of wax by hand.

titile header 48"w x 9.75"h

The Mustangs of Las Colinas

Museum and Visitors Center