



DENNIS VOSS

b. 1948

Dennis Voss was born in 1948 and was raised on a ranch in western Nebraska. He studied ceramic sculpture at Chadron State College, Murray State University, and the University of Kentucky before becoming a professor at Montana State University. Voss is known as a great draftsman and sculptor and also for his performance art pieces. His art mainly focused on isolation, distance, and survival in western ranch culture.

"For a while, I was worried about the fact that I was a hick. This period of time in my life- the last 10 years in Montana- has allowed me to go full circle. As I grew up I rejected my rural upbringing and it made me a little wild. When I left, I didn't ever want to go back because somehow I felt cheated out of something other people seemed to have a hold of. I knew after a short while I was dead wrong and that when I did finally come back, I saw it in a whole different way. I realized my assets and accepted who I was. Also, as an artist, I couldn't disregard anything about my past and I couldn't hide anything from myself. I grew to celebrate it and my peers enjoyed my unique perspective."

-Dennis Voss

After teaching and making art throughout Montana in the seventies and eighties, in 1986, Dennis Voss became a full-time rancher and currently lives and works with his wife on Horse Butte Ranch in Two Dot, Montana.



Ranch Gate #2 (1982)
Mixed Media on Paper, 61.5x84"

- Excerpt from interview by Gordon McConnell, curator Yellowstone Art Center, 1985
- Dennis Voss, 1983, Montana Portrait
- Dennis Voss: *The Mechanic of Isolation*, 1985, Yellowstone Art Center