

Biographical Summary Zeljko Kujundzic

- 1920: Born in Subotica in the former Yugoslavia, of Turkish descent. Educated on the Dalmatian Coast.
- 1939 - 40: Studied art in Venice, Italy. Returned to Subotica upon the German invasion of Hungary.
- 1941 - 46: Entered and completed art studies at the Royal College of Art and the University of Budapest, Hungary. During this period he was active in a student resistance cell, taken prisoner first by Germans, then the Russians, and escaped both times. The second time trekked back a thousand miles through the Ukraine and Romania to Yugoslavia.
- 1946: Worked in the Propaganda Department in post war Yugoslavia under Tito while acquiring Teacher Certification. Disillusioned by political constraints on artists, returned to Hungary. Fled Hungary on foot and entered Displaced Persons Camp in Austria.
- Distinguished himself as an artist. Eventually assisted to relocate to Britain.
- 1948: Employed by Scottish sculptor C. d'O. Pilkington Jackson (Sculptor to the Queen).
- Married Ann Johnson and with her had 6 children, five surviving into adulthood.
- Held solo shows during the next ten years in Edinburgh, London, Paris and Oslo.
- Collaborated on work with Scottish poet Ian Hamilton Findlay producing several book covers, and graphic illustrations.
- 1957: wrote autobiography, 'Torn Canvas', chronicling his youth and WWII struggles.
- Published in 'Young Artists of Promise' by Jack Beddington. Selected as one of 120 artists from a fielding of some 4,000 British entries.
- 1958: Emigrated with family to Cranbrook, B.C. Continues to exhibit in Britain and Canada (Montréal, Vancouver, Calgary and regionally).
- 1959: Moved to Nelson, and taught at the Summer School of the Arts.
- 1960: Assisted in establishing the year-round Nelson School of Fine Arts and continued as Principal for four years.
- Connected with an avant-garde movement out of Spokane that set the tone of artistic vitality in the Pacific Northwest during the post war years, and exhibited with them both then and later. The group included Wirth McCoy, Robert Graves, Keith Monaghan and Harold Balazs.
- Created ties to Doukobor community and Quakers, and built an A-frame in Argenta, a vibrant intentional Quaker community at the time.

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- 1964: Moved to Kelowna. Established the 'Art Centre', a former church that he converted to a gallery, studio and teaching facility. Friendships that become important and influential included George Ryga, who was also deeply concerned with the plight of the oppressed, and Noll Derriksan (Toussowasket), who later became chief of the Westbank Band and was a cultural supporter of the workshops Zeljko gave on Reserves.
- Formed the Contemporary Okanagan Artists with Weldon Munden, Des Loan, Leroy Jensen and Frank Poll, with George Ryga writing for them.
- For seven years taught summer workshops in ceramics and metal crafts to First Nations of different age groups, first at Vivian Cowan's ranch near Williams Lake, at the Art Centre in Kelowna, and the Penticton Indian Reservation.
- 1967: Organized and sponsored the first Okanagan Summer Arts Festival.
- 1967: Received grant as Artist In Residence at Instituto Allende, San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. Traveled for six months with wife and two children through southern US, Mexico and Guatemala, visits Hopi and Navajo settlements. Visits to the ruins in these areas sparked a lasting fascination in amateur archeology. Revisited these areas many times over the next 20 years.
- 1968: Guest Professor of Art for a three-month term, Pennsylvania State University. Offered Professorship and asked to head the new Arts Department for Fayette Campus in Uniontown Pa. Returned without his family to teach there.
- 1968 - 82: Anne separates from and later divorces him.
- Returned to the Okanagan each summer until 1982 and taught workshops in various BC locations.
- Founded the 'Church of the Solar Messenger' and became the sole minister. Performed irregular services and one marriage.
- 1982: Commissioned to build a sandstone monolith memorial to the Holocaust in Pennsylvania.
- 1976: Invented a solar kiln to fire ceramics. Also invented a ceramic air conditioner.
- 1982: Retired to Entiat, Okanagan Valley WA. with companion Liz Campbell, where he continued to work, exhibit and teach in the US, Canada and internationally.
- 1996: Moved to Osoyoos BC, and Orville WA., established studios in both locations.
- 1999: Married Liz Campbell, his companion of the last two decades.
- 2002: Died in Osoyoos BC.