



# Dennis Voss

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.”***

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*, Dennis Voss, Mixed Media on Paper, 61.5" x 84"

- *Excerpt from interview by Gordon McConnell*, curator Yellowstone Art Center, 1985, <https://www.dennisvoss.com/art>
- *Dennis Voss*, 1983, Montana Portrait
- *Dennis Voss: The Mechanic of Isolation*, 1985, Yellowstone Art Center