**Marshall Raeburn**



In 2004 I was looking for Fairburn agates where the town of Conata, SD, once was.  All that is left of this town is broken pieces of metal, pottery and glass.  There in the dirt next to a cool rock was the rusting frame of an old door lock and out of the blue it looked like the head of a robot to me. I gathered a lot of junk that day to make him whole. That junk became, "Robot Carrying the Head of Marvin the Martian," and many other works

Here I was in my 50's, an apartment full of junk and a desire to make something out of it. Never having any form of art instruction I just had to solve problems as I went along. I treated all the "parts" I found like a jigsaw puzzle. After trying various combinations, a piece will emerge that is pleasing to my eye. What I make is determined by the junk that I find.  I just can't understand why all that junk turns into robots, space ships and submarines.

The main intent of my work is simply the pleasure of making the stuff. I enjoy every aspect of it: finding the materials, putting them together, choosing whether to paint them and if so what colors, what backgrounds and how do I manage to attach the materials to the frames. I find myself often using bright colors because they make me feel good. Mirth is a common intent in my work.  
 I was born and raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota and lived there until 2000.  I worked at the University of Minnesota for 26 years.  I started there as a custodian and ended up an Operations Supervisor.  I liked being a custodian.  I liked the people I worked with.

In 1991 I went on vacation for the first time to South Dakota.  I was on I-90 and crossing the Missouri River at Chamberlin, SD, when suddenly my heart felt like it had found a home.  It was a powerful feeling.  It was not until 2000 that I was in a position to act on that feeling.  I moved to Wall because it is close to the Badlands where I love to go hiking.  I liked living in Wall.  There are good people in Wall.  I was living in Wall when I found that door lock.

Recently, I moved to Deadwood South Dakota and continue to explore the region.