

## My art studies

*Joe Fafard – Clip 2*

I loved studying art. I began when I was 20, at the Winnipeg school, the Winnipeg Art School, which was part of the university. It was really the first time I was in a milieu where all the other students of my age were more or less interested in the same thing. When I was in high school, I was, of course the only one interested in art; that has always been the case everywhere. When I got to university, all of a sudden I made friends who had the same plans, the same ambitions. It was a completely new world for me. Since I had very little training in the area, I discovered new artists, in 1962, it was Paul Cézanne. People like that. It was fascinating. It was as if I had existed in a void that I filled as fast as I could. The four years I spent in Winnipeg were great years. I had at my disposal a library full of books on the arts. It was wonderful. I think what encouraged me at that time, especially when I was a student, was when I arrived at school, there were students who drew much better than I did, and who knew a lot more than I did about art history. They were very advanced. People who had been privileged that way, had taken art in high school, had been exposed to all that through their families. But as I worked at it and tried to make it, I became as good as them. After four years, I knew just about as much as the other students. I had learned to draw and sculpt, and the professors were

very encouraged. They told me that they thought I might have a career. That's what encouraged me, the professors and the other students.