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He moved to Canada as a young man in 1967, and got jobs pouring, drilling and cutting concrete. He also had a job as a photographer at an advertising studio in Toronto, and discovered he enjoyed creating things with the plasticine that was used to prop up items for product photos.

"I would observe the people working there, and I would make heads in my spare time," he said. Eventually he turned to carpentry, and for more

than 35 years has made a living working on projects such as house framing and renovations.

"Sitting around doing nothing makes me nervous- I'm only happy when I'm using my hands or reading a book."

While Dolman was working in construction, he continued to develop his artistic skills.

He shared a studio with a fellow artist and took night school courses in life drawing, painting and especially sculpture, which seemed to come naturally to him.

When he was 20, his sister brought him a book of photos of sculptures by the French artist Auguste Rodin (1840-1917), which opened his eyes to a style of modern portrait sculpture that featured turbulent emotional content instead of realism. Rodin worked as a designer in his early years, when his work was rejected by the art establishment, but later became one of the world's best-known sculptors.

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