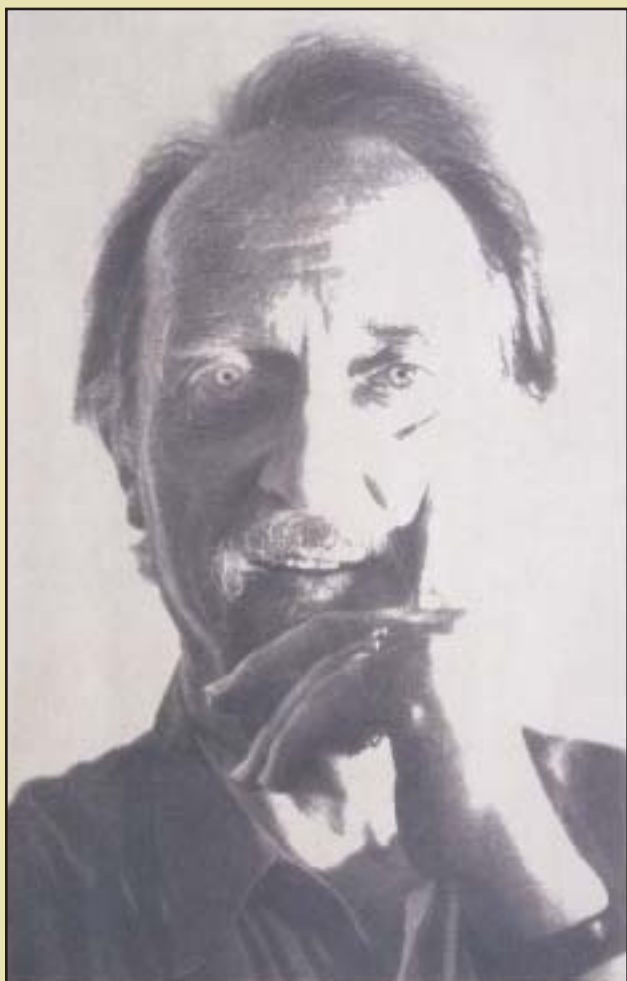


CURATOR'S CHOICE



ABOVE: *Jerry Rudquist*, 1990–91, by Greg Kelsey (1951–91). Graphite on paper; 17 x 11 inches. RIGHT: *Descriptive Study/Greg*, 1989, by Jerry Rudquist (1934–2001). Oil on ragboard; 38 x 28 inches. Gift of Jasper James Anton y Rudquist, grandson of Jerry and Raquel Rudquist.



ARTISTS JERRY RUDQUIST AND GREG KELSEY first met in 1970. Rudquist, an art professor at Macalester College, had a profound effect on Kelsey, his student, and after graduation the two remained keenly interested in each other. The formality of the teacher-student relationship dissolved as they became colleagues and friends, meeting frequently to share coffee and discuss art, history, music, portraits, color, and books. Both artists explored the figure, stretching the boundaries of portraiture in different ways. Kelsey usually worked in pencil, creating small-scale, almost photorealist images. Rudquist's large works used heads in ways that demonstrated his skill with abstract painting and mastery of color.

Prophetically marking the culmination of their nearly 20-year relationship, the men in 1989 decided to paint each other's portrait. They loved their sittings, conversations, and time together. The results are two remarkable portraits and one remarkable friendship. Sadly, Kelsey died in 1991, shortly after completing Rudquist's portrait, which the Minnesota Historical Society purchased in 1994. Rudquist died in 2001, and two years later his painting of Kelsey was donated to the Minnesota Historical Society, thus uniting these works for all time. —*Sally Johnson, director, Groveland Gallery, Minneapolis*



Copyright of **Minnesota History** is the property of the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, or email articles, however, for individual use.

To request permission for educational or commercial use, [contact us](#).