

Artisans Quarterly Review

H A N D C R A F T E D C U S T O M W O O D W O R K I N G

2011 on Air Q3!

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Our work is often appreciated and admired, and we gain a personal satisfaction from creating heirlooms, but let's face it, its furniture! How truly excited can anyone be? It's a rare opportunity for us to have a direct and positive impact on a child's life; this was definitely a project we'll remember.

We timed the release of this newsletter with the premier week of "Tanked," so make sure you catch it one of the pending airtimes this week to get the full story!

" T A N K E D " A I R T I M E S !

The Premier Episode airs August 19, 2011 - at 9:00pm EST

Five New Episodes Air Weekly every Friday night at 9:00pm EST

Artisans of the Valley is featured in Episode Five on September 9th!

All on whatever channel your cable carrier chose for Animal Planet!

E D I T O R S M E D I A B L I T Z

This issue is going to be somewhat media centric. We've been in the newspapers, blogs, featured on an assortment of our affiliates websites, AND ... we're on TV! The media is an interesting animal to care for; we've been feeding this creature for a while hoping it will grow as we nourish it with stories from our lives and tales of our artistic adventures.

Features include articles in The Times, The Hopewell Valley News, custommade.com, lumberjocks.com, finewoodworking.com, Horton-brasses.com, Waterlox.com, www.acrylicaquariums.com, Animal Planet's "Tanked", and ... what's pending ... well that's a surprise so stick around!

2011 has brought us good luck with publicity as well as fun projects and new opportunities. We always have a lot more in the works, as it's been said before "this is NOT the last you'll hear from us!" We're ripe for reality TV! We have the cast of characters, the interesting projects, the ironic events, adventures are constant, and we're certainly a dysfunctional family chuck full of wit and banter! So what network is interested in picking up a show called "American Artisans" ... ???

A R T I S A N S & A N I M A L P L A N E T !

On behalf of Artisans of the Valley I would like to thank Acrylic Tank Manufacturing, [Nancy Glass Productions](#) in association with BenSalz Productions and The Animal Planet Network for offering us the opportunity to participate in their television series "Tanked." We spent a day in New York back in April and got to meet the cast and crew; of course being able to assist in presenting the finished project to Chille was, as artists, a fulfilling experience.



Chille Clark bottom left in the front of the group.

ARTISANS GETS “TANKED”

Back in April we had the privilege of meeting Wayde King and Brett Raymer, owners of Vegas based [Acrylic Tank Manufacturing](#), on set in Manhattan. Our crew, Eric Saperstein, Michael Pietras, and Dana Oxenberg delivered a “Sea Chest Bed” commissioned to coordinate with a fish tank taking on the theme of “The Maggie B.” a nationally known children’s story.

Wayde & Brett are at the helm of an amazing operation, and are the stars of Animal Planet’s new summer reality series “Tanked.” It’s great to be included with the adventures of a family business, but the day gets really interesting when you are mingling in a reality TV “dysfunctional family” ... The jokes, the mocks, and the banter on set will make for entertaining episodes; shark sticks (mop handles) and sleeping on the couch for a year, watch the promo it’ll make sense. Behind the drama, the underlying feeling of welcome makes it obvious these guys are a creative and caring family, driven to produce and deliver not only the most amazing aquariums you’ve ever seen but an array of mind boggling water features, pools, terrariums, and enclosures.

“These are not your typical fish tanks. And these are not your typical fish tank builders. Welcome to the world of TANKED! Acrylic Tank Manufacturing (ATM), owned by Wayde King and Brett Raymer, is not only the most successful, but probably the most outrageous tank manufacturer in America. They are brothers-in-law, business partners, best friends, and constant rivals. Joined by Wayde’s wife Heather, and Brett’s father, “The General”, this is one big dysfunctional family. Housed in a “State of the Art” 15,000 sq. ft. facility located in the center of Las Vegas, every year, ATM takes on more than 200 projects. They build tanks inside restaurants, casinos, banks, hotels, museums and zoos from 50 to an endless capacity. They build tanks for celebrities and ordinary Joes. They’ve created tanks in the shape of pyramids, spheres hexagons, and even, the female anatomy. They are filled with the most exotic...and dangerous fish around. Their business is fish, and business is good.”

- <http://press.discovery.com/us/apl/programs/tanked/>

We can’t even begin to show off the amazing work of Wayde and Brett’s crew of artisans in our newsletter, but here’s a preview. Check out <http://www.acrylicaquariums.com/> or better yet watch “Tanked!” We’re excited to see the series air, and of course we’re looking forward to see if we’ve made it on national TV!



This Tank Maintained by ATM



“THE SEA CHEST BED”

Artists are driven by a desire to be unique; to create and bring to life a reflection of their individuality. Commissioned artists derive their inspiration from a set of requirements defined by the client. Artisans received a call from Nancy Glass Productions regarding a commission for a reality TV show based on fish tanks; specifically a project based on the children’s story “The Maggie B.”

Our first thoughts were, “Ok you want a stand for a fish tank right?” Well, no ... Lindsay Bonsall, one of the show’s producers explained that a child would be laying in a bed positioned under a fish tank anchored about five feet off the floor and configured to look like the side of a boat. She then added that this fish tank manifestation of the THE MAGGIE B. boasts a magical portal; this is an acrylic bottom boat!

It took a little imagination to visualize exactly what Lindsay was describing, but we caught on. Design a child’s bed that provides comfort, storage, function, and package it with a nautical theme. We decided to go with a sea chest, one that converts into a bunk to enjoy and fantasize about adventures at sea. We’re going to leave out the details of the recipient of this amazing creation; you’ll have to watch the show for the rest of that story.

So, our solid cherry “Sea Chest Bed” houses four drawers, a mattress, storage space for planks to convert to a table, and a custom ladder for easy access to the bunk. The piece rests on four locking casters to allow easy positioning.

Our [Jewelry Organization Consultant, Dana Oxenberg](#), jumped in and demonstrated her eye for color by picking out the fabric. We passed the material to Richard and Randy Brown of Brown’s Upholstery to create a custom made mattress and bedding.



Chille Clark pointing up in the front of the group.

THE “REVEAL”

Made-for-TV projects always have a twist, are usually fast tracked, and often involve an assortment of characters and requirements. For this project, our design was conceived with no direct interaction with the client. The recipient was strictly prohibited from seeing any of the actual designs and pieces until the final reveal; which took place April 2011 at their home in Manhattan. After all, good television requires a little drama and a little suspense right?

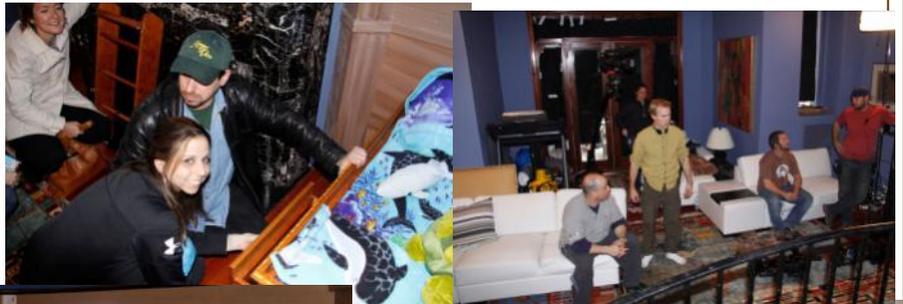
What’s a “Reveal?” The delivery of a finished project in reality TV has become known as “The Reveal.” A television or movie production set is chaotic, when it’s a real time on location (out of the studio) taping it’s organized mayhem. Reality TV now gives us a window into the anxiety and suspense involved in real life. You’ve now been introduced to custom motorcycles, tattoos, cakes, guns, taxidermy, hot rods, and the term “picking.”

Our spin: “American Artisans ...” If they had had a camera crew following us along the way to deliver the Sea Chest Bed, we’d have had a complete hour long Seinfeld-style episode! Side track missions to post offices in Secaucus that turned out to be boarded up buildings, arguments over parking (Interlude: OK so Dana earned \$150 towards her keep by tracking down an NYPD officer to inquire what the fine is for parking a truck on a curb in NYC. Eric finally gave in and moved the truck. Are you happy Dana? Now the whole world, or at least our readers, knows that you were right.)

Once we found the site of the reveal, we then began our adventure to find a bagel: so off we go spending an hour looking for a deli that turned out to be a furniture store! (Interlude II: This wild goose chase was based on Dana’s intel ... just say’in.) We then found ourselves pushing the bed down the streets of Manhattan along the crowded sidewalks, and finally wrestling it into the apartment.

Anyway, back to the main story. So cast and crew and all of us extras are now crammed into a townhouse along with the family who is quarantined in a small front room with all the windows blacked out. Yes, that’s right the production crew even blacked out their windows to avoid anyone getting a view of the parts and pieces of the project being brought in! Also keep in mind, piles of insulated boxes containing salt water fish that arrived via overnight express were stacked in the hallways awaiting completion of their new home.

The tank was brought in, assembled, filled, lit, all the life support systems setup, as well as the installation of the façade, decorations, and the placement of the “Sea Chest Bed.” All within the same day it was revealed to the family!



JOIN US AT HOPEWELL VALLEY VINEYARDS FOR AN EVENT ENTITLED "THE BLENDING OF ART & WINE"

Award winning winemakers Sergio & Violetta Neri and Master Craftsmen Eric M. Saperstein of Artisans of the Valley & independent artist Michael Pietras extend an invitation to the community and local artisans to join them on the grounds of Hopewell Valley Vineyards for the Delaware River Valley Wine Trail Event "The Blending of Art & Wine" on September 10th & 11th, 2011.

The Neri family brings their Italian heritage of winemaking and a love of art to our Valley by creating a Tuscan winery with a rustic, cozy atmosphere perfect for relaxing and sampling wines. Their tasting room features a wood burning stove, a copper wine bar and lots of large windows to enjoy sipping wine and enjoying the views of the vineyard. You could also take a stroll onto their deck to bring the wine tasting experience outside. Hopewell Vineyards is a prime example of how modern farming techniques ensure open space can be preserved, productive, and available to the community.



The studios of Artisans of the Valley are nestled into Hopewell Township and have been an icon of the community for over 35 years. Artisans will be onsite with wide variety of fellow artists and craftsmen providing demonstrations and windows into their portfolios. Anticipate some new and unexpected pieces from Artisans; the debut of their new modern art line will take place at this event! Stop at the vineyards for a preview starting August 13th to check out one of Artisans amazing New Wave Gothic dining tables and for a glimpse into the lineage of craftsmen behind their artwork through an illuminated manuscript proclaiming the pedigree of Artisans Eric M. Saperstein.

Participating Members of The Delaware River Valley Wine Trail

[Hopewell Valley Vineyards](#)

[Old York Cellars](#)

[Turhune Orchards](#)

[Unionville Winery](#)

September 10th/11th of 2011 * Hours are 12pm – 5pm both days * Vineyards Address: 46 Yard Road, Pennington, NJ 08534

Admission is free to artists & the general public!

Artisans please contact Artisans of the Valley for information on displaying or demonstrating.

Wine, Brick Oven Artisan Pizza, & Cheese/Crackers are available for purchase at the event! Meanwhile visit the Vineyards any summer Friday / Saturday evening for wine, brick oven pizza, and live music!

For more details about Hopewell Valley Vineyards Visit: www.hopewellvalleyvineyards.com

Download The Event Flyer: http://www.artisansofthevalley.com/docs/Blending_of_Art_and_Wine_2011.pdf

Participating Artists as of September 7th, 2011

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <u>Eric M. Saperstein of Artisans of the Valley</u> | 2. <u>Stanley D. Saperstein of Artisans of the Valley</u> |
| 3. <u>Michael Pietras; Woodworker</u> | 4. <u>Kurt Tazelaar; Painter</u> |
| 5. <u>Peter Lawrence; Peter Lawrence Woodworkers</u> | 6. <u>Charles Maxwell; Clock Maker</u> |
| 7. <u>Wayne Ouldcott; Artisan Woodworking</u> | 8. <u>Henry Schweber; Photographer</u> |
| 9. <u>Bob Eigenrauch; Chainsaw Carver</u> | 10. <u>Rein Triefeldt; Kinetic Artist</u> |
| 11. <u>Willard Brothers; Woodworkers</u> | 12. <u>Wendy Sturgeon; Artist</u> |
| 13. <u>Thomas Whinistance; Winstance Woodart</u> | 14. <u>Ru Amagasu; Woodworker</u> |
| 15. <u>Birdie Miller; Custom Cabinet Maker</u> | 16. <u>Arlene Freed; Jewelry Artist</u> |
| 17. <u>Johanna Furst; Painter</u> | 18. <u>Roddy Benson; Woodworker</u> |
| 19. <u>Eric Hendrickson; Modern Metal Work</u> | 20. <u>Steve Walton; Box Maker</u> |



Our Friends from [Trenton Animal Shelter](#) will be onsite on Saturday September 10th to offer animals ready for adoption! They will also be accepting donations of any excess pet supplies you may have on hand, and of course monetary donations are very much needed and appreciated! Come visit Hopewell Vineyards to adopt a dog or cat!



HORTON BRASSES HAND HAMMERED HARDWARE



Orion Henderson, President of [Horton Brasses](http://www.horton-brasses.com) came through, as he always does, with high quality custom hardware for our special "Tanked" project. Horton provided eight hand hammered rope twist pulls, four for the drawers and four slightly larger ones to function as chest handles. Horton also supplied their custom pyramid head period screws and custom iron corner caps.

We regularly use Horton's hardware on a our commissions and restorations, as well as an assortment of their pyramid head screws and cut nails. Horton offers a variety of stock and custom hardware suitable for use on period and modern furniture.

Visit: <http://www.horton-brasses.com>

FEATURES OF ARTISANS

Those of you in NJ watch closely The Times of NJ will have a feature article by Artisans of the Valley. Entertainment reporter Joyce Persico visited our shop for an interview back in April; we've had to keep this story under wraps until now! We've been looking forward to seeing her account of our place in the world, and of our covert "Sea Chest Bed" project.

If you're out of range of our local paper, check it out at www.njtimes.com for the story. We'll update our newsletter to include a direct link as soon as it's available!

PERHAPS WE WERE WRONG ABOUT THE PRINCESS?

In our last issue we featured our Dana engaged in a bit of manual labor, we negated her JAP (Jewish American Princess) claims and committed her to her destiny of being more of a hick than a JAP. Many of you seemed to enjoy this, but several people commented that knowing Eric's sense of humor and irony, something of a one-eighty was to come around the next bend. In this case you'd be right! ... Eric had a plan to represent Miss Dana in a little different light in this issue.

Dana, for those of you that haven't been following her, is a beach chick. So logically the plan for their anniversary was get Dana setup on a romantic beach! Eric's plan, pick out a luxury all-inclusive resort; and you'd figure this would be met with excitement and enthusiasm, but for some reason Dana's are resistant to migrating somewhere warm while it is warm right here at home. OK, so the logic behind this isn't flawed but

logic doesn't have to apply to what's right for a romantic event.

Sometimes you just gotta take a woman somewhere special; especially one who put up with Eric for a year as of August 14th, this girl deserves a reward right? So with some protest by Dana behind them, our young couple was for ["Secrets Royal Beach Punta Cana."](#) Since we're on vacation we'll limit ourselves to a few photos from our moonlight beach dinner. [Check our blog site when we return for more great photos from our trip to the Dominican!](#)



Iron Hardware

SILVER CLAY & TURQUOISE STONES

When an artist used to working on unique projects decides it's time for a gift to someone they care about, only something one-of-a-kind will suffice. Our last artist-to-artist commission article featured Eric's commission for a custom chef's knife by Jay Fisher; we discussed the technical aspects of the commission as well as the unique dynamic between two artists developing the same piece of artwork. This time we (Dana and Eric) worked with jewelry maker Jennifer Smith-Righter ([Wearable by Design](#)) to design a made for Dana fine silver and turquoise necklace with the inclusions and pendant featuring a lily theme; Dana's involvement brings an engineer with a little touch of OCD into the equation.

There's tons of jewelry available on the market, but common mass produced items or even limited series pieces just aren't suitable when for a gift from a custom craftsman; Eric wants the one-of-a-kind. So the quest for artwork is now initiated. We'll spare you the few weeks of googling and research and summarize the process. Finding the right artist for a task is really 90% of the work involved in the commission process, at least from the client's perspective. If you get this choice right, the end result will exceed your expectations. Getting it close, but not perfect, well that's what you'll get in the end result as well. Now, if you mess up with your artist selection and the whole project can fall apart. Interview your artist no matter what the venue; we have been the right artist selected AND the wrong artist. So on the flipside, we have learned to interview our

customers and at times determine we're just not the right fit for their project. Trust an artist's instinct when we tell you it's not right and we refer you to someone chances are we've put a reasonable amount of consideration into the recommendation.

Eric found Jennifer who specializes in working with silver in the form of precious metal clay. Precious Metal Clay (PMC) is metal in a form that can be manipulated like clay, but once kiln fired (fused) it returns to a state equal to solid silver, gold, or copper. This new state of matter was developed by Mitsubishi Materials Corporation of Japan arriving in the US in 1996. (Perhaps we just discovered the secret of alchemy? Yeah, wouldn't that be nice! Eric has amassed almost 1 ton of solid lead ingots, \$4.8M if that worked ... sigh ...) Anyway, we should mention PMC is a green metal, collected entirely by a recycling process using X-ray films and electronics as a primary source.

Jennifer can sculpt and shape what will become sold metal, in our case Dana's favorite being silver, into any shape one could achieve with modeling clay. Dana's fetish for lilies inspired this necklace incorporating both the bud and bloom of the flower and accents of color using natural turquoise. Starting with an initial discussion with Eric, Jennifer developed the initial sketch as shown above left. From this point the project was revealed to Dana so she could join in the creative process.



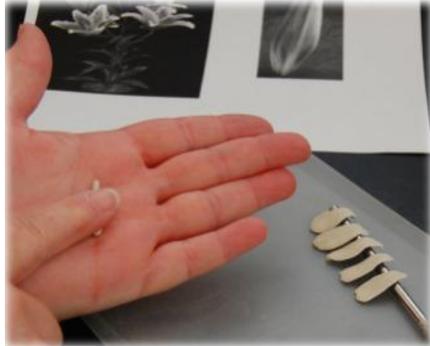
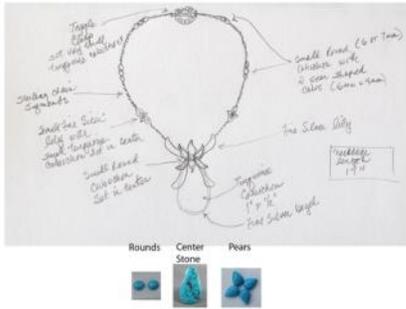
"We focus on clients who want to have a design shared by virtually no one else. Too many designs today are reproduced by the thousands in countries with low-cost labor and poor working conditions. The disadvantages of this mass produced jewelry are many and the benefits are few.

Like all custom projects, it starts with an introduction and a preliminary sketch. There's a lot of back and forth as the artists begins to understand the desire of the client. And when there are two different clients it can get tricky – that's three heads to get inside of and swap ideas with!"

- Jennifer Smith-Righter (Shown Left)

Dana's guidelines were established; she wanted piece that is lifelike and makes a statement that is clearly defined, yet be subtle enough to wear every day. Jennifer started on the pendant, first developing the individual lily petals, then securing them into the floral bloom. All of the veins and details are added with lifelike flex and crinkles providing for the realistic appearance.

"This project was under a strict deadline with a first anniversary looming – a sandy beach calling and work on the necklace began. But with every new project dreamed up, there are always changes. Some things aren't coming out as envisioned in the sketch. Some things need to be adjusted in terms of scale. Some supplies always run short. The dog gets gravely sick. There's always something!" - Jennifer Smith-Righter



SILVER CLAY & TURQUOISE STONES & A PRINCESS

If you haven't noticed, we're telling this story from multiple perspectives, so we are intertwining back and forth here a bit between Eric's documentary and Jennifer's dialog. This should give you a feeling of how the commissioned artist is establishing the project, while the crazy artist boyfriend (Eric) attempts to mediate and interact to guide the OCD engineer girlfriend (Dana) through the process.

"Being familiar with tight deadlines and knowing there's almost no room for something to go wrong, I knew I had to get extra supplies overnighed days before so that there would be plenty of time to work. Just one miscommunication left me waiting, literally on the curb for the fex ex package I'd managed to track down with a half a dozen phone calls, and two days behind schedule.

I still had 5 hours to finish. I was sure I could do it. With my hands shaking and watching the Rosy the Riveter clock tick away the hours, I'd finished it with 45 minutes to spare on my 6 pm deadline! I boxed up the necklace and raced through the infamous Bay Area Rush Hour Traffic to the Fedex shipping center – not just any Fedex store, but the world wide shipping center! I burst through the doors at 5:47. I made it just in the nick of time. I run to the counter and the guy asks were the packing is going. Back east I tell him. Sorry he tells me, the cut off is 5:45. No exceptions. Nada. It was not going to happen." - Jennifer Smith-Righter

So now we have Eric on a mission, bound and determined to get this necklace in time to present it for the pending anniversary. Tenacity is a wonderfully powerful characteristic, for Eric it allows him to achieve what is often considered impossible. As an artist is pushes him in directions that may seem unreasonable, unrealistic, or just insane to attempt. In many cases, he pull it off and achieves the goal.

Sometimes though, the simple things are what knock you off the pedestal of invincible. Getting this necklace shipped out to meet them either before they left at 7:30am on the 13th, or managing to have it meet them in Punta Cana wasn't going to happen without spending over \$1,000 in shipping and risking the loss of this amazing original artwork. A few hours on the phone with various shipping agents, Eric finally submitted to defeat; perhaps with a blessing in the mix. Sometimes things are not meant to be, and the more he spoke with friends and family about the idea of presenting this piece to Dana in the Dominican, the more horror stories of lost and stolen jewelry and valuables he was told.

Jennifer's efforts to reach the deadline are not in vein, she through her unbridled desire to exceed her client's expectations pulled what will likely be seen as some of her best work to date. So the moral of this story is; Dana will get her amazing necklace when we return from our trip. She'll likely have a special meal prepared, maybe alone maybe with family and friends present that's TBD. The couple will be together to commemorate a year together, that's what truly matters, not the material objects we present to each other as tokens of our affection.

The experience also reminded Eric, all is not lost when you can't achieve every minor detail all at once. The trip, the time together, the experience of the commission, and even the frustration of missing the arbitrary deadline of delivery will serve as a memory for Eric and Dana for the rest of their lives. Oh, and let's not leave out the obvious from the theme of this whole issue. If everything works, the story is boring! Were this to be an episode in our reality TV show, the imperfection in this story would make for better entertainment value than if all was always perfect and well.

The artist doesn't always make the deadline, the artist doesn't always make their customer happy, the artist, honestly, rarely makes themselves happy as they strive so hard to improve and push their skills and their materials that there is always a better way we would have or should have handled a project. This can be considered as cancer is to evolution, or it can be considered the means to an ever evolving artistic journey. No artist ever truly is a master of all, we are always left with room to learn and improve. The quest for perfection is impossible to achieve, and the unstoppable desire to achieve the impossible is what makes the greatest artists, well, the greatest artists!

Shown right, the net result; Dana's personality, Eric's insanity and desire to find her the perfect gift, and Jennifer's creativity and talent. We'll show you how it looks on Dana and provide a little more insight into Jennifer's background and pieces in our next issue!



BROWN'S UPHOLSTERY

Our projects often require an assortment of skills outside just woodworking, and a good upholstery artist is someone to always have on call. Brothers Richard & Randy Brown assembled the fabrics and components required to custom fit a mattress, sheets, pillow case, and blankets for Chille's one-of-a-kind bunk room.

Designed for comfort and durability they wrapped a high density foam core with a quilted fabric. Following the nautical theme the flannel sheets and pillow case feature a wavelike pattern. Topping the bunk is a seascape fleece blanket. Selection of the upholstery and pillows is credited to Dana Oxenberg.



BUILDING THE "SEA CHEST BED"

The "Sea Chest Bed" was based on the original design we developed for our coffee/chess/wine rack/puzzle box except this time we built it as a bunk. The majority of the piece is solid cherry, except the deck and bottom which are 3/4" plywood. The drawer bottoms are 1/2" plywood. Construction joints are configured with interlocking tung and groove strips each layer providing an interlocking finger joint against the opposing corner. The chest is built like a log cabin, including the drawer fronts with a stacked plank look.

The inset mattress allows for the surface to be covered over with four removable planks to create a coffee or gaming table. The planks store inside the chest above the drawers. The entire unit is sitting on four locking casters to allow easy relocation and access to all the storage drawers. The drawers slide on center mounted bearing slides and are chained back to back to allow removal when required but prevent accidental dismount.

Accent carving includes our favorite hand carved rope, and Klise Manufacturing's quarter round rope and picture frame moldings on the sides, drawer fronts and around the perimeter of the chest. Finished in Mohawk water based stain, a light coat of amber shellac, and Waterlox Original Tung Oil.



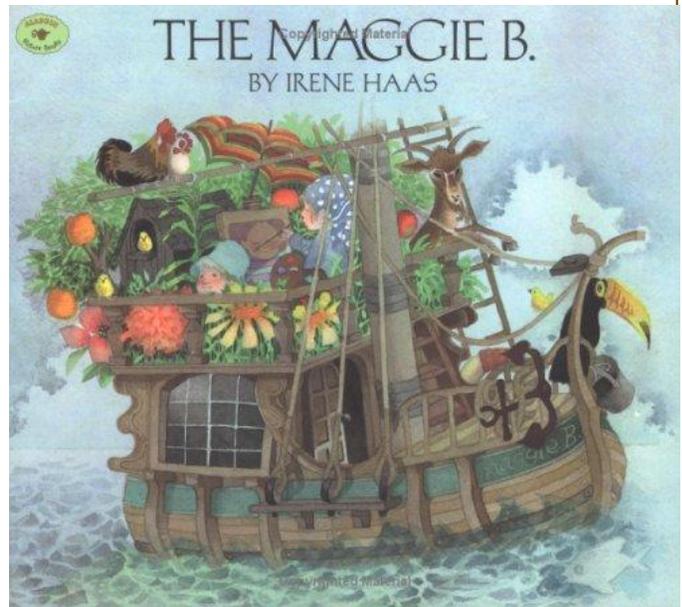
THE MAGGIE B.

So what's the deal with "The Maggie B." ?? This is the boat and the book from which the theme for Chille's fantasy fish tank was derived. Author Irene Haas is Chille's aunt.

"The Maggie B." by Irene Haas is the story of a wish come true. Margaret Barnstable wanted more than anything else to sail for a day, "alone and free with someone nice for company" on a ship named after her. One night, she wished for it on the North Star, and when she woke up she was in the cabin of the The Maggie B, with her small brother James. It was a most wonderful day, with everything she needed. This sumptuously illustrated picture book is available in hardcover at a bookstore near you." Quoted from:

<http://thencbla.blogspot.com/2010/12/still-shopping-gift-book-suggestions.html>

The book is available today at most popular bookstores or just pick up a copy from Amazon!



WATERLOX FINISHES THE SEA CHEST

Hand crafted furniture deserves a hand crafted finish; Waterlox is the premier microbrew finish. Celebrating their 100th year in 2010, Waterlox remains a family operation. Eric visited the facilities back in 2007 and was introduced to the family, the chemists, and the operations on a personal tour by 3rd generation CEO Jay Hawkins.

Artisans has assisted in product testing and review; we have a great insight and experience with implementing of microbrew finishes. Our visit helped develop our relationship with the chemists responsible for formulating this invaluable resource.



"As always, Waterlox Coatings Corporation is extremely pleased to be affiliated with Eric Saperstein and his company as their wood finish of choice," said Kellie Hawkins Schaffner, vice president and fourth generation of Waterlox. "Waterlox resin-modified Tung oil-based products are known for bringing out the beauty and character of wood while offering protection and ease of maintenance. By choosing Waterlox, Eric and his team make a commitment to using only the best finishes for their projects."

<http://www.waterlox.com/assets/pdfs/cleveland-paint-varnish-history.2011.03.pdf>

A LITTLE WAX FOR THE WEAR

It was about time we tried a few wholesale/retail efforts so we've decided to put some Renaissance Wax and Waterlox Tung oil displays into a few local venues. So, [Willard Brothers' Lumber of Lawrenceville, NJ](#) and [The Furniture Mill of Pennington, NJ](#) are now offering these products! Stop in and stock up if you're local or let us know what you need and we'll ship!



Everyone who owns quality furniture should have Renaissance Wax on hand. It's just the right product to use to maintain the integrity and durability of your heirloom pieces. Wax twice a year, you can take care of it yourself or contact us about our onsite services.

Just as a little side note, our new affiliate Michael Pietras is responsible for the wooden shoe laces. We're not really sure if we should ponder over it and think, hey that's freaking cool, or maybe we should pass him a little more work as he's obviously got too much free time!

NOW - "IT'S ALL ABOUT THE FISH"

[Aquarium Design Network \(ADN\)](http://www.aquariumdesignnetwork.com/) is the culmination of more than 75 years of combined experience in the aquarium field. As New York's premier aquatic design firm, they specialize in creating living art for both commercial and residential applications. If you can dream it they can build it. Services include design, installation, and ongoing maintenance and care. Darien Odabasi was onsite for the reveal, setting up the installation and stocking the new tank with a range of exotic salt water fish. ADN works closely with the crew at ATM to produce and maintain the worlds most amazing aquariums. - <http://www.aquariumdesignnetwork.com/>



NANCY GLASS PRODUCTIONS

Nancy Glass is a household name, a woman who holds six Emmy's! What you may not know is that the woman who has appeared on your television screen as a journalist probably hundreds of times operates her own production company. They are involved in projects from HGTV to the New York Times to XM Radio while still having the time to unveil their own furniture lines. [Nancy Glass Productions](http://www.nancyglass.com/) is now welcoming "Tanked" to their program lineup!

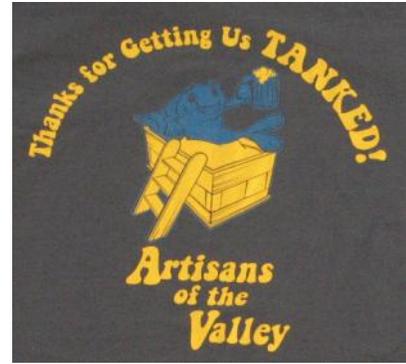


BENSALZ PRODUCTIONS

BenSalz Prod. is a multi-faceted production company that was formed in 2007. They handle everything from talent management to the creation of reality programming and book publication. The 3 principle partners, Michael C. Skouras, Richard Bennett, Jr. and Eric Salzman bring a wealth of knowledge and diversity to the field. Their latest project, "Tanked!", a reality based series developed for Discovery/Animal Planet will makes it's debut Friday, Aug. 19. This November they will also release a series of workout videos featuring 3 of the models from Howie Mandel's highly successful NBC game show "Deal or no Deal." Also due early next year is a children's book based on teaching kids the basic principles of money and setting goals featuring New York Giant all-pro, Super Bowl champion Shaun O'Hara.



“ THANKS FOR GETTING US TANKED! ”



We'd just like to say thank you again to Wayde & Brett, the ATM crew, Aquarium Design Networks, BenSalz Productions, Nancy Glass Productions, Animal Planet, and Discovery Networks for giving Artisans of the Valley the opportunity to join them on their new series "Tanked."

Just for fun, we figured we'd have a few shirts made up to commemorate the event! With some help from our friends at [Aztec Graphics of Trenton, NJ](#) ... it seems we got a winner!

YOU KNOW KLISE IS INVOLVED!

Where did [Klise Manufacturing](#) come into play with the "Sea Chest Bed?" We're constantly using moldings and accents on our commissions, and Klise provided the detailed rope moldings used to frame the drawers and sides of the chest. Contact Artisans for Klise products!



WILLARD BROTHERS LUMBER

[Willard Brothers Lumber](#) is one of our favorite local sources for lumber, stockpiled with an array of domestic and exotic hardwoods as well as a variety of evergreens. Willard's provided the material for the "Sea Chest Bed," and hundreds of other projects Artisans completed in the last 35 years. Willard's craftsmen will be joining Artisans at "The Blending of Art & Wine" show on September 10th & 11th and will feature some of their creations.

Willard's recently completed drying and surfacing some extremely valuable 375+ year old quarter sawn white oak for us, they are now processing one of the biggest mulberry trees we've ever found. We're not sure exactly what we'll do with the mulberry just yet. However, if we will be debuting our eleven foot long waterfall bubinga table built from a slab we recently obtained from Willards at the show in September.

These project's are just the start of a series of collaborations we're discussing with Willard's crew. We promised in our first newsletter of 2011 that things were going to get interesting; we'll be sharing the debut of several interesting pieces with Willard's very soon!

WC FORGE & THE SIGN SMITH

Dana Osterman of WC Forge & The Sign Smith handled our request for the plaques featured on the sea chest bed. Keep a close eye for some more collaborations! Dana's shop is located in Washington Crossing, PA, and includes a fully operational hand forge and, on the other end of the spectrum, a computer controlled cutting system! We'll be working with him on several upcoming projects including a custom gaming table, our bubinga table, and a variety of carving replications.

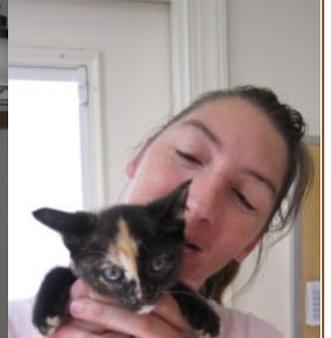


RECENT KITTEN ADOPTION UPDATES



We've continued our efforts to find great homes for an assortment of critters, twenty-three to date! Dana and Eric took on five all black kittens otherwise known as hell-kittens. One of the most energetic batches of cats we've ever had, and given they understood how to use the advantage of both agility and outnumbering us they often dominated the house.

Fortunately, we've already gotten three of them adopted! Shown to the left are two families with their new kittens! Meanwhile we've managed to get Mama and her five kittens featured in our last newsletter ALL adopted! Mama found a home with Dana's parents Nancy & Steve (bottom left) and two of her sons went home with Dana's sister and brother-in-law Jackie & Rich! (below center)



NOODLER'S FIRST SWIM

Fish go in fish tanks, cats go in ... pools ... right? There's nothing like a swim to cool off on a hot summer afternoon, not only for our Dana, but for Trenton Animal Shelter's spokescat Noodler! Animals need a release from the heat too, so make sure they have plenty of drinking water and shade. A baby pool is a great way for a dog to wade in and cool off, or if you're brave, toss in your cat!

Dana and Eric have managed to complete twenty-one adoptions in their first year together. In that time they have learned to develop the temperament of kittens through constant attention, rough housing, exposure to creatures and people of all sorts, shapes, and sizes! Not to mention a few dunks in the pool or bathtub ... if you get a kitten from us you can be confident you'll get a well socialized and playful critter!

Obviously no kittens were harmed in this photo shoot, we've had a few questions about our water exercises and we can assure you, cats CAN swim! Although we can't say no Dana's were injured; she did receive a few nasty scratches!

Click for TAS's Latest Available Pets! <http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/tas.html>

ARTISANS OF THE VALLEY

HAND CRAFTED CUSTOM WOODWORKING



[Artisans of the Valley](#) offers museum quality period reproductions, original designs by commission, antique restoration/conservation services, hand carving, modern furniture refinishing, onsite furniture repair, hand made walking sticks, and educational programs. Our website is now over 300 pages, including galleries, feature articles, educational sections, company background, and our new adventure album section. We extend an open invitation to explore our site, and contact us directly with any inquiries or questions you may have.

Eric M. Saperstein is Master of Artisans, Owner, Webmaster, Editor, Bookkeeper, Buyer, Office Manager, Legal Pit-bull, and he's in charge of vacuuming the shop: eric@artisansofthevalley.com

Stanley D. Saperstein, Master Craftsmen, Author, & Historian founded Artisans of the Valley in 1973. Stanley offers historic presentations, impressions, and various lecture series ranging from Civil and Revolutionary War, American Folk Art, and Interactive Role Play of Characters ... sometimes trying to reenact American Chopper episodes in the shop: woodcarver@artisansofthevalley.com



CLOSING NOTES

"Well this newsletter went off on a few far-from-woodworking rabbit trails huh? We talked an awful lot about fish and fish tanks, not featured restorations, a mix of other companies were noted and quoted, and we profiled an assortment of stuff about TV production companies. Oh, and kittens, our trip to Punta Cana, and a silver necklace.

So what is the mission of [Artisans Quarterly Review](#)? The answer is very simple, it's going to include whatever I (I being Eric) want it to include! I'm figuring you're all bored with before/after restorations and gothic furniture by now, so I'm shaking up our portfolio and our newsletter content. The most interesting thing this newsletter, and our blog (yeah I know that's out of date) can convey is the story behind our artwork, the furniture business, and our lives. This newsletter shared more of our story than our projects.

The experience we had with this commission for Animal Planet was lots of fun, and it opened up a lot of new possibilities. We'll be on your TV screen this fall, and that certainly won't be our only fifteen minutes of fame! We've got a lot of great projects in play, and if you've gotten to know us, you are well aware we'd make an interesting cast of characters for reality TV!

I'd also like to mention that our relationships with our suppliers and affiliates is what keeps us alive. Yes, we definitely need clients they are the ones who ultimately pay us; however without those who supply us, we will have no means to deliver to our customers. In this issue, we chose to thank and promote several of them for their efforts to help us succeed."

All of us at Artisans thank you for your continued support, and your business!

- Master Craftsman, Eric M. Saperstein

2011 ENDING QTR

Artisans working in concrete and wood? - Yeah its coming!

Mulberry; wood you've probably never seen turned into furniture!

Bring on the Bubinga Project! - Since it'll be at the Sept Show, it'll be done to feature!

Coverage of Hopewell Valley Winery & Artisans of the Valley's Blending of Art & Wine

Like we have a crystal ball? - We'll feature whatever comes in that's cool!



Our studio hours are by appointment. Please call ahead!

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www.artisansofthevalley.com For a concise overview of our work [Download our Mini-Portfolio!](#)