

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

3D for 3 out of 4 of 2013

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3 D F O R 3 O U T O F 4 O F 2 0 1 3

This quarter we launch our 3D CNC / Hand carving collaboration project. We're working to create a line of limited edition carvings that has been one of Eric's pet projects for quite a while. As usual, these pet projects get back burned while we concentrate on paying jobs. We've finally had the planets align to get this effort in motion. We kicked it off with a patriotic eagle project. We'll also be introducing our sign smith's abilities in stone carving.

Forever turning, we continued our lathe upgrades to include rigs for coring and hollowing. These devices increase safety, productivity, and material optimization. We'll feature several completed and in-progress bowls.

A few of Bob Eigenrauch's new chainsaw carvings, including a "bear arms bear" joined us for a debut at a gun show and include a touch of military history. We'll reinforce our bear's stance with the restoration of a Russian Mosin-Nagant Model 91/30.

Restorations continue; we finally finished that Adams bench we have had in storage for as long as we can remember. Storm restoration projects continue in full swing; we will have a few finished features. Art All Night 2013 has come and gone, along with a special concert by Danielia Cotton. We'll also feature airbrush artist Felipe Rivas, one of our partners for the eagle project.

Enjoy the issue! We're trying to keep it diverse and interesting. If you have any suggestions for projects, articles, or feature artists please let us know!

Our followers know we've spent a lot of time upgrading and enhancing our lathe and creating a variety of turned pieces. Well, as we settled in with our newly functional machine all of the sudden the main spindle sheared off, sending a bowl on a little roll across the shop!

It's time for a new machine! So, we've kickstarted a Kickstarter campaign to fund a new lathe! Producing unique turnings requires some heavy equipment. We're debating between a few modern professional machines, each giving us the advantage of safety, weight, power, vibration dampening, control, performance, and flexibility. We're budgeting \$12,000 for the lathe and upgrades in proprietary and general equipment, accessories, power sharpening, and turning tools.

In exchange, we are offering generous backer rewards for funding increments from \$100 - \$1,000. Please take a moment and check out our campaign, the return on your investment will be very generous. Simply put we are pre-selling signed original bowls and vessels!

KICKSTARTING KICKSTARTER

Artisans' Master Bowlturner Lathe Project

by Artisans of the Valley

Home Updates Backers Comments Pennington, NJ Crafts



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Artisans of the Valley is planning to upgrade our lathe capabilities to increase our productivity, creativity, and capacity.

2
backers
\$200
pledged of \$12,000 goal
59
days to go

Back This Project
\$1 minimum pledge

This project will only be funded if at least \$12,000 is pledged by Sunday Feb 9, 9:24am EST.

Project by
Artisans of the
Valley
Pennington, NJ
Contact me

<http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1933285255/artisans-master-bowlturner-lathe-project>

MARBLE CARVING / THE SWAMP ANGEL

Carving soft stone was historically accomplished before the human race mastered the carving of wood. Stone carving could be achieved with bronze or iron tools, while steel is required to precisely shave wood. Through The Sign Smith, Artisans is offering custom soft stone carving for plaques, memorials, or artistic projects. Marble, soap stone, and limestone can be carved with extreme detail.

This recent project for the City of Trenton provided a new dedication plaque for the famous (infamous) "Swamp Angel." This 8" parrot rifle was positioned outside of Charleston, SC with the intention to set the city ablaze with a barrage of experimental shells known as "Greek Fire." In the end, what was taken down by the Greek Fire was the swamp angel itself.

The gun position was an extreme feat of engineering, as bringing it to bare required a platform to be built using 13,000 sandbags and thousands of planks to form a roadway and foundation. After only 35 shots, the gun exploded, eliminating the Union's chance for capturing Charleston for another year.



Saved from the scrap pile by a soldier who recognized the unique artillery piece as it was being hauled into Trenton for scrap after the war, the gun is now mounted in memorial in Trenton's Cadwalader Park. A few years ago the brass commemorative plaque was stolen, ironically for scrap! The new piece was crafted by artist and blacksmith Dana Osterman, commissioned by The Camp Olden Civil War Round Table.



3D CNC EAGLE PROJECT # 1



This is the first physical carving from our 3D rendering experiments. The graphics layout, design and CNC carving is by Dana Osterman aka The Sign Smith. Hand detail, including the wood burning and tinting, was done by Eric Saperstein. We're working on variants of this design for an assortment of projects to launch this summer.

Our overall game plan is to develop carvings that will be limited edition series runs. They will vary in materials, theme, and scale. We'll configure to run the bulk of the work on the CNC system and then hand detail each carving. They will be signed and numbered in the same manner that prints are run from original paintings.



Vector files allow an extreme flexibility; from this digital point map we can extrapolate countless variations rendered in virtual or physical form. The same design that produced project #1 is the basis for the larger scale carving. This next project is carved in 18# sign foam laminated to an LDF for rigidity. Layered in various hardening agents and primers, Dana built a base coat that will serve to bind and strengthen the foam surface.

Experience and technique is critical to this stage of a project using sign foam. The pieces are extremely durable and weather resistant. Finishes can include UV protection and various other agents that stabilize and protect the color and integrity of the materials. Constantly changing formulas and methods always keep things interesting. The following images are a quick window into this world.

EAGLE PROJECT # 2





BEARING ARMS



Two new bears by Bob Eigenrauch offer an opportunity for our bear lineup to step up a bit. On the left the “Right to bear arms bear” holds a modern musket while on the right our “flag bearer” proudly displays our national colors.

Bears, figures, and other creatures can be configured to grasp and display any number of objects. Mailboxes are probably the most popular to date, but we’re always entertaining new ideas and concepts. Contact us to discuss training a bearing bear to suit your special requirements!



DANIELIA COTTON ROCKS ART ALL NIGHT!



Danielia Cotton is a rocker, songwriter, and guitarist from Hopewell, New Jersey boasting a lineage of musical talent. Danielia is the daughter of jazz vocalist Wenonah Brooks and the niece of jazz vocalists Jeannie Brooks and Carol Brooks-Meyners.

A small town girl raised by a single mom with a passion for jazz, she was exposed to music and took on her first challenge with an acoustic guitar, a gift from her mom, along with the opportunity to practice with the Brooks Ensemble, her mother's gospel group.

Hopewell in Cotton's childhood was a "Small White Town," later the title track to her 2005 album. Hopewell's school system boasted seven black kids, taking her out of the

standard R&B and hip-hop popular in more urban settings; Danielia grew up a rocker while holding her roots in jazz and gospel.

Graduating at the top of her high school class, and the first Hopewell graduate to earn her papers from the New Jersey School of Performing Arts, wasn't enough, Danielia earned a full scholarship to Bennington College, a storied – and costly – school where the arts were emphasized. Majoring in acting and music, she also took on a senior year at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London. Tackling tutorials with avant garde jazz trumpeter-professor Bill Dixon who, she says, "really trained my ear," while embracing acting to embellish her performances and dominance of the stage.

So what's the ties to Artisans? Danielia Cotton is the sister of C.A. Shofed, our feature artist in Volume 5 Issue 4 and a friend and classmate of Michael Pietras.

Credited with an assortment of hit songs including "Let it Ride," featured on FX's Sons of Anarchy last season. Take a moment, listen in, and perhaps order an album! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HvoCQdePVj4>



The Band:

**Danielia Cotton - Lead Vocals, Electric and Acoustic Rhythm
Guitars, songwriter**
Marc Copely - Lead guitar, Backing Vocals
Winston Roye - Bass
John Clancy - drums



FOREVER TURNING

The world keeps turning so we keep turning. We've been having fun with the newly upgraded lathe, taking advantage of the extra horsepower.

This is a chance for us to go free range artist. Contact us to keep track of an ongoing supply of signed freeform artwork bowls tailored to, well, whatever we want to do! We're not going to answer to anyone when it comes to our free range turnings.

Bowls in this array include spalted beech, black walnut, cherry, dogwood, and manzanita burl. We'll be playing with more exotic materials as time and budget allows!



CORE IT!

Having completed the lathe motor upgrades obviously we couldn't stop adding tools to our already overfilled shop; we bought a OneWay bowl coring setup. A contraption of levers and cutters on curved supports that removes cores in succession.

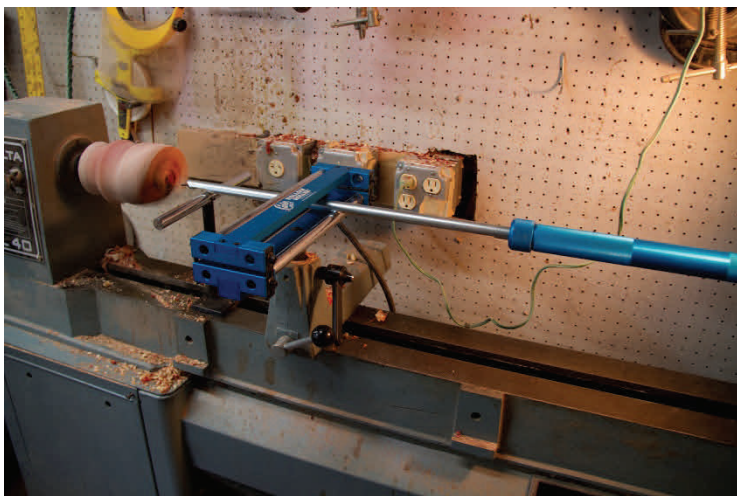
The purpose of a coring rig is as follows; optimize the use of material by producing cores (additional bowls) from a single large blank. The cores are taken out using a cutter that takes a narrow channel on a prescribed path out of the blank releasing the material in front of it. This process saves time, material, and is a great way to improve efficiency and the earning potential of a single blank.

This walnut blank produced three unique bowls. The process can result in a series or "nested" set of vessels unrecognizable from their siblings. We'll ramp up and build an inventory soon!

HOLLOW IT!

When the time comes to hollow a long thin blank, steadily remove bulk material from wide bowl, or hollow shape with a very small opening a hollow coring rig is the fitting tool for the job. Carter makes the top of the line in heavy duty coring rigs. A substantial roller bracing system secures the tool rod in a manner that absolutely prevents grabbing. This drastically increases safety and provides repeatable and secure leverage to increase productivity.

We've just barely explored the capabilities of this device and we're looking forward to a lifetime of testing it's limitations. The first few bowls and vessels are featured on the next page.



HOLLOW FRUITS

These are the first four hollow forms created on our Carter hollowing system. Four vessels into inventory for sale! Contact us if you're interested.

ART ALL NIGHT 2013

We kept it simple for Art All Night this year, entering one of our marbilized concrete dovetail benches, our new mascot eagle, and manzanita burl bowl #1. A simple and elegant / eclectic display.

This year's turnout was estimated to be 30,000 people with over 1,000 artists. Art All Night keeps expanding, and we hope to expand with it. 2013 kinda got away from us, and honestly we wanted to do a lot more.

Next year, next year - yes definitely next year we'll have a blow out for 2014. We're planning to start the rally now so that all of our affiliated artists will contribute a piece for the event.



We'll look into setting up more furniture and sculpture displays. So please contact us now to discuss your ideas. We're going to seek out an assortment of traditional, classic, modern, and abstract furniture forms.

All mediums and methods are welcome as this is an open event for every artist to submit one piece that represents their current portfolio.

We would like to present our artwork for 2014 in a more interactive manner. In 2012 we had a greater presence, so we'll likely setup a table again and create a welcoming place to sit and enjoy the event, discuss artwork, and perhaps have a glass of wine.



ADAMS BENCH RESTORED (FINALLY!!!)

OK - let's cut to the chase; this project took forever! Forever, and perhaps an additional day or two. The piece was in our queue for the last six years. Originally it came in ready to restore, needing a complete new base and some repairs to the spindles and bench back. Our client loved it, but realized they simply didn't have the room. We were given custody of the piece, but never had a chance to restore it.

Two years ago they contacted us and asked if we still had it, and we did - they now had a home for it. We reinstated the project as a background project. We knew we had some upgrades to make to our lathe to prepare for completion of this project. FINALLY in 2013 we have completed fabricating an entirely new base for the piece. Our old Delta DL40 got a new three phase motor, speed controller upgrade, live center system, one-way chucks, and a drill system that mounts in the tool rest to allow accurate positioning and drilling of holes for the spindles. We are now equipped to fabricate bases to chairs and benches accurately and efficiently.

The bench now rests on an entirely new spindle base in soft maple. The black sections are japanned, which we enhanced with fresh coats. This allowed a renewal without destroying the aged and cracked appearance. The bench is stable and functional and ready for daily use. A long term project, with a long term future of service ahead! We hope it was worth the wait.



RESTORATION: MOSIN NAGANT

World Wars brought on massive military buildups, and of course Russia was a huge producer of firearms. Prior to the world renowned AK-47—Avtomat Kalashnikova (Russian: Автомат Калашникова), referred to mostly as a Kalashnikov; simply saying “AK” will immediately infer a visualization of the rifle around the world. The AK had predecessors, the most famous of all being the Mosin Nagant conceived during the Russo-Ottoman War (1877-1878). This bolt action five round internal magazine repeating rifle held an assortment of complexities, but offered a huge advantage as a repeating rifle with a new 7.62x54R high powered cartridge.

Revisions resulted in the M91/30, the 1891 concept revised in 1930. From there an estimated 17.5 million rifles rolled out of Russian factories alone. Step back, and take a moment; manufacturing might and the simplicity of the design allowed the staggering numbers of rifles required to arm the Russians towards holding back the German invasions to be produced. The rifle brought Russia in line with the German Mauser, English Enfield, and American Springfield. The rifle remained prominent through WWII until 1949 when the AK-47 was accepted by the Russian Military.

After the war, millions were bathed in cosmoline and packed into arsenal storage; hidden from the Russian people as the Soviets gained control. Here's just a tidbit of history; CITIZENS are armed - SUBJECTS are disarmed. As Russia modernized they happily unloaded the surplus rifles around the world, a seemingly endless supply reaching the hands of the American people. If a Soviet invasion ever did play out, how ironic would it be that the rifles that drove the Germans out of Russia would play a hand in driving the Russians out of America?

OK enough with the politics and propaganda, we're artists and restorers not lobbyists. This 1942 Mosin Nagant arrived in standard oily condition. It is now battle ready; just a few hours of work and only four coats of Waterlox tung oil on the stock. All the original leather, straps, tools, and the bayonet are intact. Let us restore your military heirlooms and collectables!



FELIPE REVAS AIRBRUSH ARTIST

Trial and error and perseverance lead self-taught airbrush artist Felipe Rivas to open his mind to art from the age of six. A student of the old school NYC graffiti artists, an observer of the transition from a hidden clan of underworld artists hitting buildings and water towers into cultured icons commissioned to help build community pride.

Revas found his niche by intertwining fantasy and Sci-Fi; influenced by Boris Vallejo, Frank Frazetta, and Soroyama. He explained his passion is his results; he is driven towards pulling that all nighter to see his visions through and realize the manifestation of a piece from the scope of his mind into artwork.

Founding Inner City Airbrushing in 2000 formally established Revas's credentials as a master. Specializing in graffiti art, portraits, automotive airbrushing, and custom apparel he is a fantastic example of the art community hovering within the city limits of Trenton, NJ.



His portfolio is online at www.facebook.com/innercityairbrushing as well as Instagram ([innercityairbrushing](https://www.instagram.com/innercityairbrushing)), ([proxgwb](https://www.instagram.com/proxgwb)), and on Tumblr (proxonegwb.tumblr.com) for his latest graffiti work.

ARTISANS OF THE VALLEY

HAND CRAFTED CUSTOM WOODWORKING



[Artisans of the Valley](#) offers museum quality period reproductions, original designs by commission, and antique restoration/conservation services, hand carving, modern furniture refinishing, onsite furniture repair, hand made walking sticks, and educational programs. Our website is now over 250 pages, including galleries, feature articles, and 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 COMMENTS

Ok we're one shy of our four quarterly issues for 2013 as our Q3 release is coming out in mid December. We'll see how things play out the next one will be out soon! Some hints and previews of things to come; let's see. We're "Gere'ing up for Franny" - a walking stick made for Richard Geere's Philadelphia based Indie film Franny.

As promised we have been ever increasingly turning, the next wave of bowls has taken us to an entirely new level with manzanita as our primary medium. Of course, our lathe decided to shear off it's main spindle, so we're down for a bit and looking for parts or perhaps a new machine. We'll be featuring a collection of our bowls in NYC at Fortuna Fine Arts, a bit more will be revealed on this project.

The onset of twenty fourteen opens up the next full house of Sandy restorations. We'll be in full throttle all winter getting our client's home ready for inhabitation by summer season. We have to complete these as the homes are brought back online, so a constant flow will be in our shop.

We have been teasing about this redwood burl project for quite some time. The piece sold with a custom base, and we'll be working on completing that project ASAP. Plus, we have a second sister piece to the redwood slab and we'll be building two the pieces together. The second will be available for sale through Fortuna Fine Arts early next year.

So - Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year! - And all the appropriate greetings to everyone and their families as we enjoy the holidays and look forward to the new year.

2013'S FINAL VOLLEY

Restoration Rabbit - A hand carved 17th Century Carving Restoration

An Antique English Brown Oak Hutch Restoration

Bamboo ... What can we do with a sheet of bamboo plywood?

"Gere'ing" up - a custom walking stick for Franny.

Manzanita - The Next Level of Turning

Still hoping for those spear guns!

The Redwood Burl - has an approved base and it's sold so it will complete soon!

Keep bringing us new projects and we'll keep featuring them!



Our studio hours are by appointment. Please call ahead!

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