

# Artisans EBRU-TV Special

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

## SPECIAL EBRU-TV FEATURE

- **EBRU-TV Special Feature**
- **"Blank Canvas"**
- **Artisans International Debut**
- **Artisans Company Background**
- **Bio Eric M. Saperstein**
- **Bio Theresa Tonte**
- **Bio Stanley D. Saperstein**
- **Bio Cynthia Saperstein**
- **New Wave Gothic Furniture**
- **Wildlife Carvings**
- **Artist Lora S. Irish**
- **Artisans Custom Furniture**
- **New Wave Gothic Frame**
- **Artist Rosemary Buczek**
- **Artist Randy Mardrus**
- **Artist Jay Fisher**
- **Artisans Blog Topics**

## EBRU-TV SPECIAL EDITION

Artisans of the Valley is proud to have joined the list of notable artists from around the world featured on EBRU-TV's "Blank Canvas". Scheduled to air September 24, 2009 on RCN's Channel 53 as well as on satellite links around the world, the show will also be available via streaming video links at [www.ebru.tv](http://www.ebru.tv) Artisans will be providing a video link hosted on our servers as soon as possible.

We're looking forward to making new contacts with EBRU's viewers. This special feature newsletter includes information about the artists and pieces featured in this episode.



## " B L A N K C A N V A S "

This is a special feature edition of [Artisans' Quarterly Review](#) featuring more details about us and the projects featured in our international television debut! Artisans of the Valley with a cast of characters including Eric M. Saperstein, Theresa Tonte, Stanley D. Saperstein, and a rare on camera appearance by Cindy Saperstein join EBRU TV's new show entitled "Blank Canvas."

"Each week on Blank Canvas, we meet extraordinary artists and share in their stories of passion and dedication. What drove them to their art? How did it feel the first time they picked up that brush and filled up a blank canvas? Sometimes it is a form of personal expression, and other times, it is a way to preserve one's heritage. A few rare artists even use their art forms to build bridges and foster dialogue, bringing people together. We also delve into the life of the artist, his fears and passions and ultimately how he uses his art form to make sense of the world and strengthen his connection to the divine." - [www.ebru.tv](http://www.ebru.tv)

The show features as an eleven minute segment of a half hour show featuring two artist profiles in each episode. Filmed on May 29, 2009 - the show will be aired on September 24th. We're hoping that more networks pick up the EBRU programming soon, they are a growing Turkish based company that has an established worldwide audience.

Producer: Archana Mahalingam

Host: Yakenda McGahee

Cameraman: Tim McNanny

Production Assistant: Akmal Hamid

SATELLITE PARAMETERS Satellite: Galaxy 25 (97 W)

Frequency: 12.084 MHz. Polarization: Vertical Symbol Rate: 22.000

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Photo by Henry Schweber

### ARTISANS & A BLANK CANVAS

We've had our time on camera for local news coverage, appeared in magazines, newspapers, and obviously our work, reviews, articles, and other features is found on dozens of websites. The opportunity for an international television debut, however, is a unique and new experience for all of us at Artisans of the Valley.

We've worked with the EBRU-TV crew to provide a portal into our lives as artisans, featuring a cross section of our woodcarving, custom furniture, antique restoration and a brief history of our trade. The interviews offer perspectives from Theresa Tonte & Cindy Saperstein as special features to take the viewpoints past the father and son operation.

Eric Saperstein provides host Yakenda McGahee the opportunity to work on a wildlife carving project as well as insight into the business operations behind an artistic trade. Stanley Saperstein likewise provides his thoughts on the transition of the skills, the trade, and the business from father to son.

We hope you enjoy the finished episode as much as we enjoyed the day with EBRU's crew and the privilege of sharing our artwork and an important part of our lives with EBRU's viewers around the world. We have no idea what this worldwide publicity will bring, the next steps we take are falling on the "blank canvas" of new opportunities.



Photos by Henry Schweber

## ARTISANS OF THE VALLEY

[Artisans of the Valley](#), based in Pennington, NJ, is an exclusive custom furniture, cabinetry, carving, and restoration shop. We are among the last craftsmen honed the traditional apprenticeship method of passing on the skills of furniture design, joinery, carving, and finishing. We offer our custom furniture by commission, and we hand sign and date each piece upon completion.

For over 35 years Master Craftsman Emeritus Stanley D. Saperstein has perfected his skills and in the process passed these skills to his son Eric. Eric has now taken the reins of the business, studio, and the title of Master Craftsman.

Artisans offers custom period and original design furniture by commission. Each piece is hand signed and bears a small brass plaque indicating its origin from our studio. Our goal is to produce the next generation of antiques; the heirlooms of tomorrow. Artisans provides services to residential & commercial clients, design firms, and architects.

Artisans of the Valley is the last of the true conservation studios in New Jersey, providing [museum quality restorations](#), refinishing, repair, and preservation services. Artisans will evaluate your antiques and collectables to determine the best options for your cherished possessions. Artisans is one of the few remaining restoration studios that can handle restoring a true shellac finish and provide the skills necessary to replace or restore damaged ball and claw feet, detailed carvings, and veneer.

Artisans offers heirloom quality hand rubbed shellac and tung oil finishes as well as hand painted options on any of our pieces. In addition, modern finishes are available through our affiliates including the full spectrum of lacquers, acrylics, and urethanes.

Bent on educating our clients, Artisans offers a tactical theory on restoration entitled ["The Philosophy of Restoration."](#) This article outlines the concepts associated with restoration, and helps dispense the myth surrounding antiques and their care. Artisans restoration services are not limited to furniture; we handles military artifacts such as firearms, swords, and leather goods. We are the only conservation studio restoring antique and collectable chess sets; bragging rights include several the famous [Jaques of London first 300 Staunton series sets](#).

[For a concise overview of our portfolio download Artisans "Mini-Portfolio."](#)



## ARTIST BIO – ERIC M. SAPERSTEIN



[Master Craftsman Eric M. Saperstein](#), born in 1973, came to his first experiences in woodworking through his father, Master Craftsman Stanley D. Saperstein, as soon as he was old enough to walk. Stanley's maintained his studio within his home, allowing him to spend time with his family and groom his son in hopes that he would take on the traditional trade.

Eric's motivation in childhood was often financial over artistic, by the time he was a teenager his skills had already become valuable enough to demand a fair compensation. Always seeking a means to gain income, Eric started and operated several small businesses including a casting business, computer bulletin board system, and various trades for hire. It often came to the surprise to new neighbors when he'd wander up and suddenly be teaching them how to build a deck, shed, or complete other home improvement projects.

By his early teens Eric was well versed in producing case goods, the basic furniture joints, and finishing procedures. Having spent his summers and hundreds of volunteer hours at Howell Living History Farm Eric's background expanded to include timber framing, farm equipment maintenance and restoration, and even the care and rigging of the horses for work around the farm. Stanley ran several adult school classes to produce furniture for the farmhouse and complete various other projects around the properties; Eric was usually in tow and often serving as a co-instructor.

Along side his interests in woodworking, Eric honed his skills in information technology taking his first consulting job at the age of fifteen. The job began as basic data entry, but quickly expanded high school went on into customer support, networking, hardware maintenance and other functions. Of course the traditional shed raising wasn't left out, and last we spoke with Eric's previous boss the shed they built was still standing today!

The IT experience continued to expand through college, landing him into the niche of Configuration Management by graduation. Eric now maintains a dual lifestyle with one foot in IT and the other planted in the world of artists. Eric took Artisans over from Stanley at the end of the year 2000, bringing it to the internet by 2001. His background in technology, and a few years in marketing, combined with his generally obsessive personality to create what is now one of the largest and most intensive woodworking websites on the internet.

Artisans online portfolio began with Stanley's master pieces, then quickly gained content as Eric completed and carefully documented commissions, restorations, carvings, sculptures, and outtakes from the family's lives. Eric took on the furnishing of his own home, and as his skills as a craftsman improved, started taking on more difficult projects and developing his talents in design, woodcarving, and restoration.

Artisans introduced a flagship line, "New Wave Gothic" one of the most unique Renaissance styles to be produced in the last few hundred years. Incorporation of various hand carved wildlife and landscape scenes into chests, bars, panels, and boxes turned into a "Safari" style of furniture and accessories. Meanwhile the flow of restoration projects through the studio never ceased, bringing in everything from original Louie XV commodes, Staunton series chess sets, tables, chairs, canes, and even cannons and sections of battleships.

Seven years had now passed without anyone really noticing the time going by, all the while Eric building on his journeyman level skills. January of 2008 marked the formal proclamation that Eric had reached the skill level of a Master Craftsman, a point commemorated in Eric's usual style of being just slightly into the range of overkill with a hand scribed illuminated parchment. A formal artistic document that once signed in itself became an heirloom.

In 2008, Master's Title attached, decided it was time to take Artisans to the next level. Artisans is now the home of his fiancé, Theresa Tonte, who has herself taken on the quest of learning the woodworking trade. The couple plan to relocate the studio and expand their operations, inspiring new marketing and publicity initiatives began to take shape. The formal branding of Eric as an artist began, and the foundation is being laid for the future of Artisans of the Valley.

[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](mailto:eric@artisansofthevalley.com)

Photo by Greg Pallente ©2007 North Jersey Media Group



## ARTIST BIO - THERESA TONTE



[Theresa Tonte \(Teri\)](#) joined Artisans of the Valley in 2006. After about two years on the observation deck she decided to take on the challenge of learning a new trade. To our surprise, Teri's sideline game imparted her with quite a bit of knowledge just from hanging around the shop.

Teri now provides detailed cleaning of antiques and collectables, preparation and finishing for restorations and commissions; in addition she handles Artisans' touch up and repair work. Teri will also take over Artisans' scheduling and bookkeeping very soon. We're even thinking of putting her on accounts receivable. Anyone thinking they can take advantage of this little blond should remember that she has been documented placing a 308 behind the ear of a 300lb Austrian boar at 80 yards; any question of her tenacity, just check with the guides at Sunrize Safaris!

Teri expressed her own entrepreneurial talents by founding Smooth Finish by Artisans of the Valley. "Smooth Finish" is a spin-off company chartered to provide on-site touch up and repair services for residential and commercial customers. Teri plans to explore new markets including hotels, restaurants, insurance and warranty companies, and offices, ensuring that the expectation of a pristine environment is met.

Outside of Smooth Finish & Artisans, Teri is often found at poker tournaments or honing her hustling skills with online games; at times even falling asleep with her laptop during late night events. Once she actually gained enough ground early in an online tournament to reach the final table while sound asleep for the second half! Teri aspires to win her way into the World Series of Poker and eventually enjoy the lifestyle of a professional player ultimately redefining her relationship role as "Eric's sugar-mama."

She can also be tracked traveling with her fiancé Eric, who introduced her to various hunting and fishing expeditions, Teri's exploits can be seen in our Company Background Adventure Album section and in her personal profile. Of course we can't leave out Teri's all time favorite activity, burrowing into a warm wrap of blankets and catching up on her sleep!

[Theresa Tonte](#) is the Owner of Smooth Finish by Artisans of the Valley. Teri provides onsite touchup & repair services for residential, corporate, and institutional clients as well as serving to fill a variety of roles in the shop including referee: [terri@artisansofthevalley.com](mailto:terri@artisansofthevalley.com)



Photo by Henry Schweber



Photo by Henry Schweber

## ARTIST BIO – STANLEY D. SAPERSTEIN



[Stanley D. Saperstein - Master Craftsmen Emeritus](#), 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. This EBRU-TV debut gave Stanley his first worldwide audience!

Stan Saperstein was born in 1946, and graduated from Rider University in 1968. He holds a BA in History and Political Science, and he obtained his MA in History/Education from the College of New Jersey in 1971. He was married to Cynthia Popkin in 1972 and has two grown children, Eric and Jonathan.

Artisans of the Valley was conceived in 1972 by Stanley D. Saperstein, at the time living in Ewing Township, NJ. The business started with simple commissions for household furniture, carvings, and accessories. As Stanley progressed with his formal training (defined below) and gained experience he expanded into more elaborate projects as well as beginning to offer antique restoration and conservation services. Stanley received his journeyman papers in 1977.

A master craftsman is one who has studied every aspect of his art for many years under an established master craftsman. In the art of reproducing period furniture, Stanley D. Saperstein is such a craftsman. Mr. Saperstein has studied the arts of woodcarving, joining, designing, and finishing under master craftsman C. N. Grinnell, whose family have been master woodcarvers and cabinetmakers since 1614.

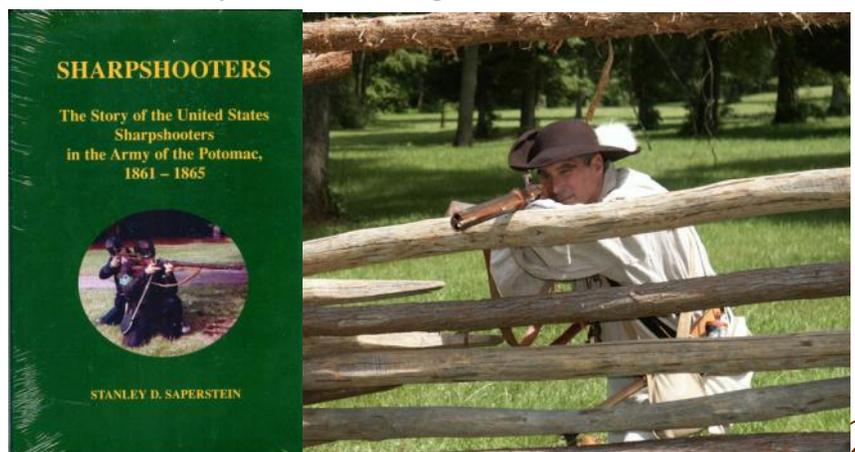
Stanley has learned the skills that have been passed down from generation to generation, his pedigree is documented in the form of Journeyman Papers. Journeyman papers were often scribbled notes offering the assurances of a master craftsman that their apprentice had reached journeyman level. Mr. Grinnell took great joy in presenting this simple note to Stanley upon completion of his apprenticeship. Stanley spent the next thirty some odd years perfecting his craft and preparing his son Eric to take on the role of Master Craftsman in order to continue his legacy. The formal proclamation was extended in the form of a hand scribed illuminated parchment on January 2nd, 2008.

Outside the shop Stanley's specialty is military history, which he has kept up with for over thirty years, reading, research, and doing living history. He is a colonial furniture maker, having served a seven-year apprentice as a wood carver/furniture make. This background sets the stage for his impression of a Revolutionary War cannon artificer. Stan continues his involvement in history reenacting famed rifleman Tim Murphy, as well as Civil War characters such as a USSS Wyman White.

Stanley finished a thirty-year career as a Personnel Manager in New Jersey State government at the end of 2001, and is now pursuing his hobbies. Stanley's retirement gave him the time to oversee the completion of his son Eric's apprenticeship in 18th Century Woodworking, formally acknowledging this event in January of 2008. Having passed on his skills as a craftsman he now concentrates his time on volunteer teaching, indulging in historical research, and serving various museums and historic organizations focusing on the Civil and Revolutionary Wars.

Stan can be seen at local living histories as a US Sharpshooter showing his antique 1851 Wessen Target Rifle, double barrel flintlock, and on occasion a 1790 pack howitzer. He is available for lectures and demonstrations including book tours, educational programs, interactive lectures in full costume, Revolutionary War artillery demonstrations, and woodworking demonstrations. For more information please review Artisans of the Valley's Educational Programs

[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](mailto:woodcarver@artisansofthevalley.com)



## ARTIST BIO CYNTHIA SAPERSTEIN



Cindy Saperstein is the wife of Master Craftsman Stanley D. Saperstein, and mother of second generation Master Craftsman Eric M. Saperstein and younger son Jonathan. Cynthia, now retired from her career with the State of New Jersey holds a masters degree in education, and now spends her time studying history, volunteering at local hospitals, reading, collecting bears, and pursuing her various crafts.

Cindy provides a feminine touch to Artisans educational programs, breaking away from Stan's extensive array of weapons and military artifacts, her lecture series includes a demonstration of the language of the fan, a device every Victorian woman was never in public without and a variety of topics on focusing on the lives of women intertwined with events in American history as well as daily life.

Artistic talent runs in the family, Cindy maintains her skills in knitting, needlepoint, and quilting creating heirloom pieces for the family and household. She is also a volunteer for local hospitals and various adult education programs.

Shown below, Cindy is standing with one of her prized bears "Granny Grace." Granny was hand crafted by Stearnsy Bears of Stotts City, MO.



## NEW WAVE GOTHIC



The basic premise of our [New Wave Gothic line](#) is to blend Gothic, Renaissance, Jacobean, Elizabethan, and perhaps a touch of mission influence to develop synergy between modern function and classic form integrating seamlessly into a Tudor home, a wine cellar, a castle, a poker room, tavern, or even a cabin or timber frame home. This line is the essence of new antiques; handmade, far from rustic, yet with obvious age and maturity, not overly distressed or beaten down.

Our goal is to maintain the substantial appearance of Gothic origin, providing no doubt the piece will outlast us all, while mitigating the excessive mass of solid wood with elegant fretwork and subtle ornamentation. The Renaissance age introduced steel tools, greatly advancing the capabilities of

furniture makers and carvers in the realm of joinery and carving. During this period the mortis and tenon joint was mainstreamed, tracery evolved into an art form, and extensive hand carving adorned the objects of royalty and wealth, not to mention the domination of artistic wood and stone work in churches throughout Europe.

This time the commission was for a full size dining table. (shown below) The scale went up just slightly from the credence table (shown right) to seat at least ten people comfortably, twelve if your guests are willing to get to know each other intimately! This project centered around tracery panels (fretwork) mimicking the geometric shapes common in church windows, arches, trefoils, & quatrefoils. The mathematical symmetry used to develop tracery designs created a unique opportunity to interact with our client, who just happened to have a Princeton University Degree in Physics with a strong foundation in math.

Artisans developed a scalable format of this design, and it is now available to suit the specifications of tables, desks, doors, wainscoting, headboards, and other custom pieces.

[To View our New Wave Gothic Portfolio Click Here](#)



Photo by Tom Clark



Photos by Henry Schweber

### HIGH POINT RIDGE – RAM CARVING



Artisans of the Valley specializes in wildlife carvings, featured on our “Blank Canvas” debut is a carving based on Lora S. Irish’s “High Point Ridge.” The original carving happens to be one of Eric’s first wildlife carvings. The carving was replicated in stages for the filming day to provide a time lapse example of the process from start to finish. Artisans can develop a variety of wildlife carvings as stand alone artwork or to be incorporated into furniture or into architectural features.

The original ram carving is Eric’s first attempt at wildlife art; of course this was completed under Stanley’s watchful eye with an assortment of direction and admittedly a few corrections! The project served as the start of what now continues as lifelong pursuit to become an accomplished master wildlife carver.

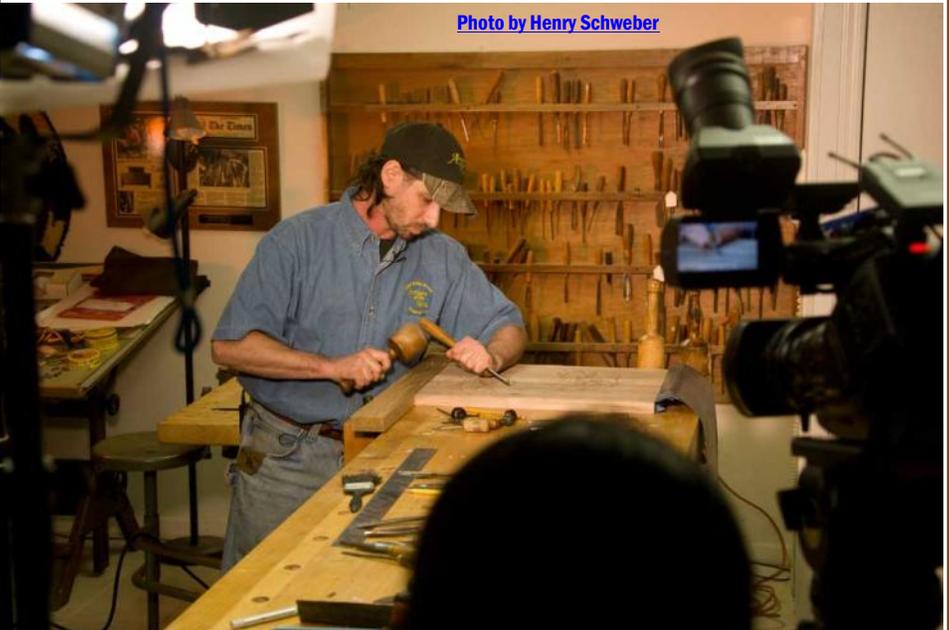


Photo by Henry Schweber



© Lora S. Irish



Photo by Henry Schweber

## ARTIST PROFILE LORA S. IRISH

Artists often rely on other artists, in our case we are woodcarvers and furniture makers. We have skills to design and draw, within a reasonably wide scope, however we know our limits. There are artists that specialize in the development of carving patterns, specifically designed to provide key details illustrating layers in scenes, muscle tone in animals, carefully developed faces, flowers, and leaves. The art of the pattern artist is the basis for the art of the woodcarvers, wood burning, scroll saws,

Lora S. Irish is a world renowned pattern artist, responsible for thousands of amazingly detailed patterns, many of which Artisans has used as a basis for their work. Some patterns are used in their exact form, others modified, combined, and resized to create a final pattern fitting the scope, scale, and size of the project. We often extend the backgrounds and foregrounds to provide additional detail and depth as required to reach the required dimensions; we refer to these as composite patterns.

Beyond just patterns, Lora is a nationally-known artist in oil & acrylic painting and author, whose books include Landscapes in Relief, Wildlife Carving in Relief, North American Wildlife Patterns for the Scroll Saw, World Wildlife Patterns for the Scroll Saw, The Great Book of Dragon Patterns and The Great Book of Fairy Patterns. Many publications going beyond patterns by including step-by-step carving lessons as well. Twelve of her purebred dog breed oil canvas paintings have been published as limited editions.

Lora and her husband Michael have a home studio in the rural countryside of Frederick County, Maryland. The pair websites: [www.finedogart.com](http://www.finedogart.com) and [www.classiccarvingpatterns.com](http://www.classiccarvingpatterns.com). Their online art gallery, Fine Art Dog Prints, features the works of over 60 canine artists. Classic Carving Patterns is their Internet woodcarving studio focusing on online tutorials, projects and patterns created exclusively by the author for the crafter and artisan. The perfect alignment of Lora's finely tuned details and Artisan's objective as carvers is derived from a mutual desire to capture the essence of a moment in a scene. Or in Lora's words " ... capturing a moment that all of us have seen, yet is gone before it can be shared." Artists root their work in their own experience and memory, Lora's painting entitled "Cookie Bait", (below left) is a family portrait of Dobies stealing cookies from the kitchen table and a perfect example.

*"What pet owner at sometime has not found the kids, husband, and family dog, all waiting for those same hot cookies to come out of the oven?" Lora S. Irish*



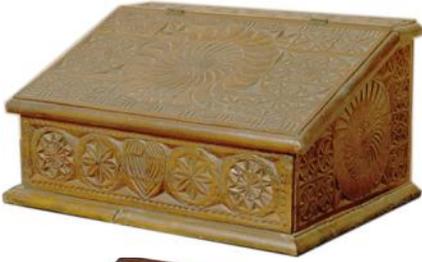
All images of works by Lora S. Irish are protected by Copyright Laws; they are represented here with permission for mutual marketing purposes.

Combining the unique skills and experiences of multiple artists results in even more possible extrapolations of a concept sketch (a pattern) to create an original piece. Shown below are just a few examples of how Artisans implemented Lora's patterns to create a solid cherry "[Safari Chest.](#)"



## ARTISTIC BOXES

Featured in "Blank Canvas" are a few examples of Artisans custom [hand carved boxes](#). Offered are a variety of desk boxes, bible boxes, jewelry boxes, and even music boxes. Boxes are available in any common hardwood or most exotic materials featuring unique hand carved geometric, floral, leaf work, wildlife, or landscape carvings.



## DUNCAN PHYFE ROLL-TOP

Master Craftsman Stanley D. Saperstein produced this hand made solid walnut [Duncan Phyfe roll top desk](#) as a reproduction of the original. This reproduction of a Duncan Phyfe roll top desk is almost as rare as the circa 1830 original. Duncan Phyfe developed the first of the roll top desk line, consisting of a cloth backed grouping of solid wood sticks bound against the cloth.

Although it stands in appearance with simplistic elegance, this desk is was one of the most complex pieces completed by Stanley as an example of a Master's work.

Proudly displaying detailed carving and fluting work on the feet and turned spindle legs in solid walnut. Later enclosed pedestal bases were developed, leaves were employed to extend writing surfaces and leg room from the new form of compacted storage. Encasements were developed to secure the entire desk as one locked unit.

## QUEEN ANNE LOW BOY

This circa 1714 [solid walnut low boy](#) features hand-carved front drawers and solid brass pulls. Elegantly formed, the Cabriole leg stands under one of the most beautiful pieces of period furniture; this is a true artists piece to own. This piece remains on display in the collection of Master Craftsman Stanley D. Saperstein.



[Duncan Phyfe and Low Boy Photos by Tom Clark](#)

## QUEEN ANNE TEA TABLE

This custom made walnut tea table has delicate spoon foot cabriole legs and a floating piecrust top. The piece shown was made from a walnut tree cut down by Stanley and a friend. Pieces such as this are individualized artistic reproductions, the compound full cabriole skirt work is hand carved, resulting in subtle differences distinguishing each one ever made.



## WINSLOW CONNECTICUT CHEST



[The Connecticut Chest](#) is one of the rarest pieces of American furniture, with only fifty known pieces in existence. Woodcarvers and cabinetmakers, highly trained in England, who lived along the Connecticut River, produced the chests.

Stanley D. Saperstein, who has made perhaps the only reproduction of the Winslow chest, is one of a handful of craftsmen able to make these fine oak chests. In fact, on one occasion, the chest shown above was found by jury to be an antique, and the show was only for pieces made by the artists themselves. A discussion followed, Stanley having to convince the jury he did in fact make the chest. This is the ultimate complement for a reproduction furniture maker, to have his piece mistaken as genuine.

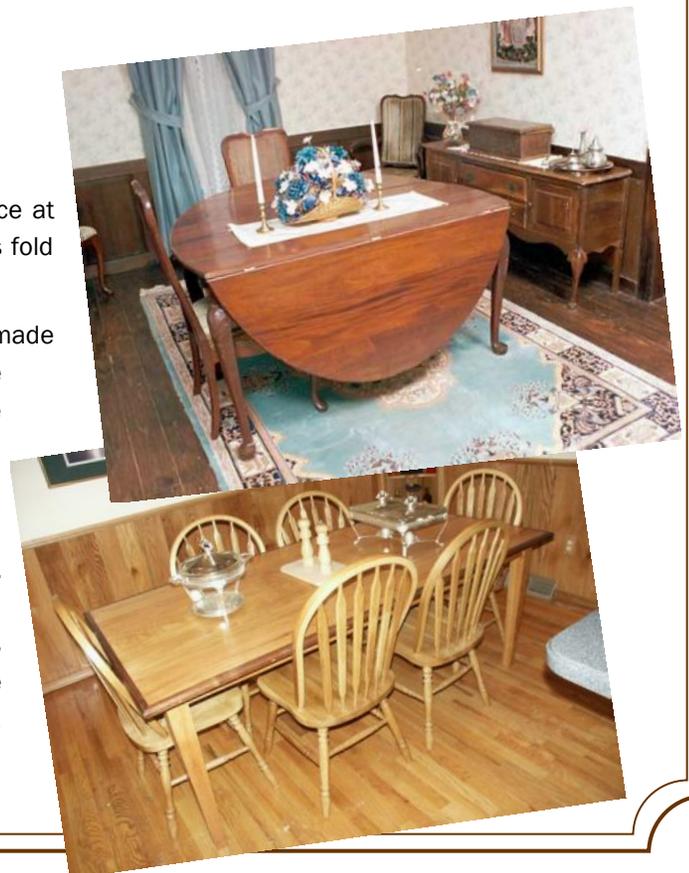
## QUEEN ANNE GATE LEG TABLE

The original of this [drop-leaf gate leg table](#) is in the Governor's Palace at Williamsburg, Virginia. The table is perfect for small rooms; its leaves fold down, leaving a 54"x24" table. Open, the oval top is 70"x54".

This piece is in solid Honduras mahogany and is entirely hand made including hand made wooden knuckle hinges. Various size configurations are available to provide for custom requirements. The finish is hand rubbed semi-gloss tung oil varnish over shellac.

## COUNTRY FARM TABLE

The mainstay of the country kitchen was the sturdy [oak harvest table](#). Options include marble or granite tops, which makes the perfect dough-rolling platform. Painted bases or finished bases are common variants of this design. Also available as a trestle or pedestal base configuration. Materials options include oak, maple, cherry, pine,



## QUEEN ANNE CORNER CUPBOARD

This [solid mahogany corner cupboard](#), with carved shell, is hand sculptured artwork. The shell and all moldings are made by hand. Molding work includes hand flutes and split turned spindle. The cupboard is also available without the top shell, which is itself available in a hand rubbed finish, black japanning, or 24 karat gold painted finishes.



Above Photos by Tom Clark

## CHIPPENDALE CURIO UNIT

This solid mahogany double door [Chippendale curio](#) (upper left) is 24" by 40" and can be made in any wood and in any size per client specifications.

Featuring a custom bonnet with center finial, the moldings make this simple box form into furniture on the wall. Shelving is glass.

Curio and display units can be configured with or without shelves, and the option of glass shelving.

## ARTIST PROFILE JAY FISHER



Photo by Jay Fisher



Photo by Henry Schweizer

*"The best thing about knife making as an art and trade is to hear the stories of what the knives have done, if they've rescued someone from a pinch, saved a soldier's life, or inspired an artistic thought that makes the piece personal, even interactive to those who view, hold, and use my knives, swords, and artwork. Making knives is probably the world's oldest honorable profession, and I'm proud to be a part of it.*

*My inspiration? Countless knife and weapons makers, warriors, and artists throughout history, who remain faceless but for the conquests and beautiful works they've left behind, as will I." - Jay Fisher*

Jay Fisher executes his craft at the Enchanted Spirits Studio in Clovis, MN, producing some of the best knives in the world. Starting his pursuit of metal mastery at age 19, he has spent a lifetime learning the nuances and working characteristics of metal & stone. His legacy will last endure through the pieces he produces, and his skills shall carry on through the hands of his son-in-law James Beauchamp. James has established his commitment and dedication to the art of knife making, providing Jay the opportunity to align with tradition and enrich an apprenticeship with the secrets of his lifetime.

*"We are proud to possess Jay Fisher's "Artemis," and we're equally honored at the opportunity to share this story."*

— Eric M. Saperstein

For more info visit <http://www.jayfisher.com> and download our [Feature Article: "The Birth of Artemis"](#)



## NEW WAVE GOTHIC SHADOW BOX

Featured in "Blank Canvas" this New Wave Gothic shadow box frame housing an amazing illuminated page by Rosemary Buczek is made in solid quarter sawn oak and featured hand rope carving and acanthus leaves. Custom frames are available fit to the specific requirements of your artwork, awards, trophies, or prized possessions.

This particular piece has a suede background, just one option from countless that are available. Lighting options, shelving, inset displays, and other features are also available.

Carving options, materials choices, stain, and finish style can be customized per your requirements.

[Photos by Henry Schwebel](#)



### ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPTS ARTIST ROSEMARY BUCZEK

For 2008, we decided to officially document Eric's status as ["Master of the Shop."](#) In his usual style of going all-in; Eric commissioned hand scribed & illuminated parchment to commemorate the occasion. See [Eric's Profile](#) on our website.

Journeyman papers follow a long standing tradition of artisans and trades to certify their own. Prior to colleges and trade schools, each craft had required an individual to step through from apprenticeships to journeyman levels, and finally reaching Master's level. The recognition of a Master Craftsman usually requires not only years of experience, but the demonstration of a set of skills through the delivery of specific works that each ensure mastery for one simple reason; the master work would not be completed if the individual's skills were not up to par. This scroll includes not only the formal version of Eric's journeyman and master's papers, but proclaims the fulfillment of Stanley Saperstein's obligation to his teacher, [Master C. N. "Larry" Grinnell](#) to pass his skills on to another generation, and it marks the official transfer of Artisans of the Valley from father to son.

The commission for Eric's pedigree went to [Rosemary Buczek](#), a Caldwell College graduate with a Bachelors in Fine Arts. Rosemary is master of her own studio, ["The Gilded Quill"](#). Her love of the Medieval Manuscripts of the Medieval Ages influences her designs and use of color. Commissions like Eric's journeyman papers present the opportunity to combine her calligraphic skills with creative and colorful illuminations and gilding techniques to develop truly original art on a hand crafted skin parchment by [Pergamena](#).

Rosemary's skills have been recognized by the International Association of Master Penmen, Engrossers and Teachers of Handwriting (IAMPETH) whereby she achieved the title of "Master Penman", and served two terms as President. This net result of Rosemary's efforts is a work of art that is absolute must see in person; or at least visit our website for the high resolution images.

Visit <http://www.gildedquill.com/>



[Photo by Henry Schwebel](#)



## CARVED IN GLASS

Randy's work was featured in [Eric's custom bar](#), in the background of one of the interview scenes. Randy's work is a reflection of his natural talent and lifelong devotion to art inspired by the mountainous northeastern United States countryside.

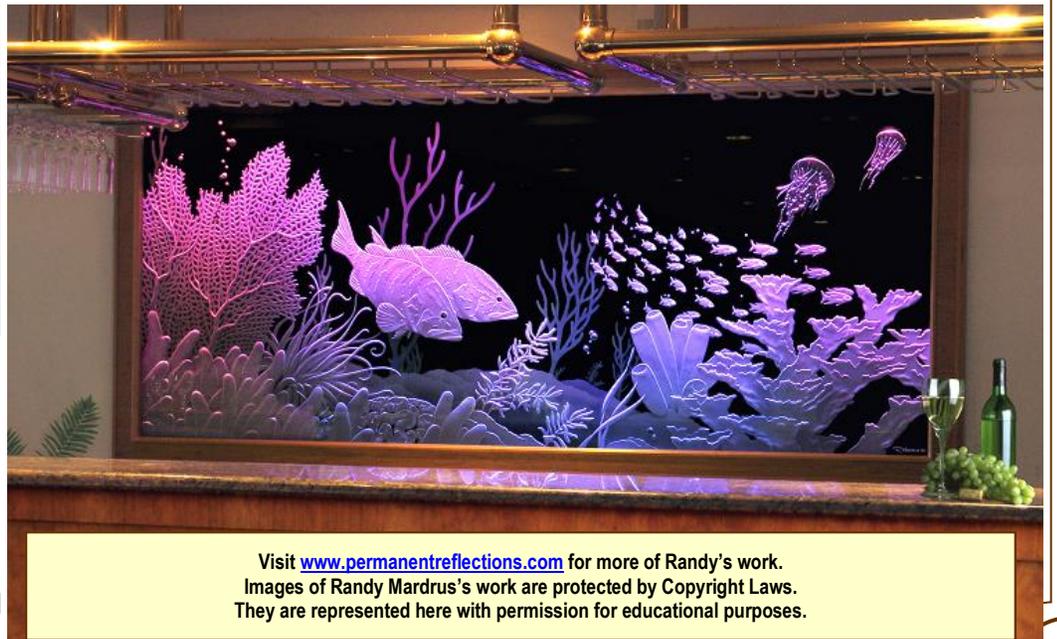
Randy's interest in glass drove him to pursue his dreams of achieving the skills and mastering the techniques of this unforgiving medium to establish a lifetime career. His initial efforts and instinct guided him to pursue a technique to carve glass using sandblasting. The intrigue of light, texture, and depth became irresistible as his hand and mind together created works worthy of marketing in 1987. Taking the leap in 1993 that most artists never risk, Randy became a full-time artist, a decision that elevated him permanently into the ranks of accomplished professionals.

[Randy Mardrus's](#) work is prized in private and corporate collections. His signature style takes a unique approach to familiar tools and materials resulting in mesmerizingly precise detail and stunningly seductive depth. With carefully planned lighting, utilizing an assortment of fiber optics, LED's, and other creative options, Randy's carvings come alive with an amazing presence. The glass radiates a realism of depth that cannot be truly captured in a photograph; in person experience is an absolute must.

Randy is among an elite class of artists who create individually hand-made original works, derived from patterns he personally develops. His greatest inspiration has been wildlife & the awesome beauty of nature. Custom commissions reside in luxury homes, mega-yachts, and private aircraft. (Rumor has it Randy's art has even reached the mile high club in a privately owned 747 wide-body.) Commercial venues include the New Yorker Hotel, Foxwoods Casino, the US Senate Building, and dozens of other famous locations.

*"I'm a perfectionist and glass carving is a medium that is very unforgiving and will always challenge me... Depth and motion are my primary goals while creating the mood in my visual dramas... I love the challenges and rewards of achieving the effects in glass that I'm looking for, and definitely get my biggest rewards from the overwhelming satisfaction expressed by my clients." --Randy Mardrus*

Wildlife art created a common ground between Randy & Eric, who remained friends after the completion of Eric's bar. Working together on this project gave them the opportunity to challenge each other, and develop a synergy between glass and wood. We're looking forward to our next collaboration; now it's up to one of you to request such a commission!



Visit [www.permanentreflections.com](http://www.permanentreflections.com) for more of Randy's work. Images of Randy Mardrus's work are protected by Copyright Laws. They are represented here with permission for educational purposes.

# 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 225 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](mailto:eric@artisansofthevalley.com)



Theresa Tonte is the Owner of Smooth Finish by Artisans of the Valley. Teri provides onsite touchup & repair services for residential, corporate, and institutional clients as well as serving to fill a variety of roles in the shop including referee: [teri@artisansofthevalley.com](mailto:teri@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](mailto:woodcarver@artisansofthevalley.com)



### A COUPLE BLOG TOPICS

#### [Is a Fishing Guide an Artist? - Ask Patricia Edel of Alaska's Blue Fly Guide Services](#)

Any interest in catching a 10lb rainbow trout (yes a rainbow) in King Salmon, Alaska? Visit our new blog site and find out how to see Patricia Edel & her father Rick Edel on their "Adventure Guides" feature on the Outdoor Life Channel! (Photos Top Two Right)



#### [Pigeonpie Films & Photography by Richard Ondrovic & Lisa Varner](#)

Enjoy amazing wildlife and landscape photography? Perhaps a few unique and first person perspectives on life in the Appalachian Mountains? Maybe cityscapes or food? Rich & Lisa travel the world and their local habitats always with cameras in hand. Visit our blog site for a few more details and links to their websites. (Photos Bottom Three Right)



### EBRU-TV'S "BLANK CANVAS"

*"This week on Blank Canvas, we meet Chinese knotting artist, Jean Liu. Jean weaves colorful symbols into silk cords, keeping alive a century old tradition. Then, we meet Stan and Eric Saperstein, master craftsmen who forge intricate wood pieces and restore ancestral furniture. Eric says, his pieces last for a minimum of 200 years guaranteed!"*  
[www.ebru.tv](http://www.ebru.tv)

**Our studio hours are by appointment. Please call ahead!**

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