

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

2013-14 CROSS OVER

Sliding into the 4th, 1st, 2nd, 3rd

- 2013-2014 Cross Over
- Gere'ing up for "Franny"
- Gothic Hutch Restoration
- The Bench, The Art, The Wine
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Well, we got three issues out in 2013, but we're gonna call this one the fourth quarter anyway as we cross over into the fortieth segment of our third millennium AD. OK fine it's already September of 2014 and we're late, obviously our editorial deadlines are slightly flexible!

We're restoring, we're turning, and we're plotting to finally launch our concrete line in 2015. We have a series of excuses, none relevant we were just too busy with ongoing projects to fire up the cement mixer this season.

If it hasn't been obvious, a great deal of our attention has recently gone to turning projects. This effort has been due to many factors, among those are preparations for several pending debuts including [The Bench, The Art, The Wine - December 7th 2014](#), an inventory stock up the museum store at Olana, also known as the [Hudson River School](#), and the [Quiet Life Gallery](#) in Lambertville, NJ. We'll be sending more details about our NYC event in our next issue!

2014 is bringing on the video revolution: Eric has been drafted into the PoniTV crew! Director & Producer Lawrence R. Greenberg has called him in bringing Eric onto the set of *Zombie Etiquette*, indie films *Road Rage* and *The Bench*, event filming, and other projects. The experience is allowing him to absorb from professionals and, combined with Adobe Creative Cloud, an MSI GT70 Dragon Series laptop, and an assortment of expensive camera, sound, and supporting gear, Artisans has produced the first two of their own project videos!

We'll try to keep up with the quarter releases, but no promises. Things are a little hectic and we apologize for the delays! [Keep tabs on Facebook for our updates.](#)

GERE'ING UP FOR FRANNY

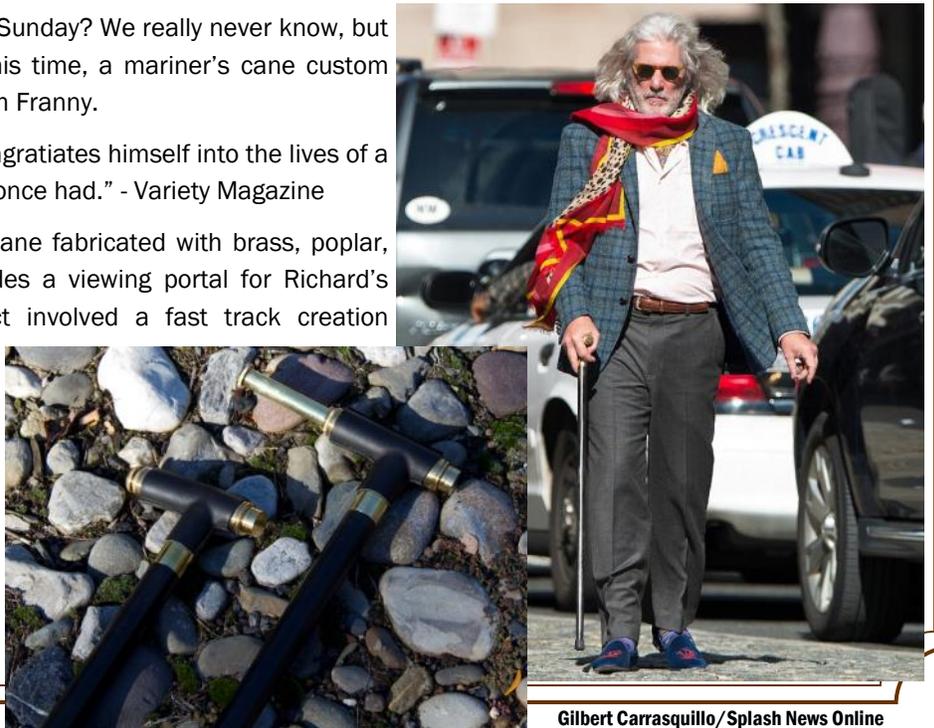
What happens when we answer the phone on a Sunday? We really never know, but that's often how a unique project launches. This time, a mariner's cane custom made and fit to Mr. Richard Gere for his indie film *Franny*.

"Gere portrays a hedonistic philanthropist who ingratiates himself into the lives of a newlywed couple in order to recreate the life he once had." - *Variety Magazine*

Director Andrew Renzi requested this custom cane fabricated with brass, poplar, and leather with a fitted telescope that provides a viewing portal for Richard's eccentric philanthropist character. The project involved a fast track creation coordinating Stanley D. Saperstein, Dana Osterman, Fred Eisen, & Haskel Zeloof to fabricate two identical canes.

We've been on set, and seen the news, but we too have to wait for the premier to find out how we fit into the plot. Thank you to Diversatech for the last minute fixes!

Look for *The Franny* Premiere in 2015!



COMPLETING THE HUTCH RESTORATION

This English brown oak hutch required a significant amount of love and attention. The finish was completely dead, several carving sections were damaged or missing, panels were split, pieces were warped, moldings destroyed, the drawers were jamming, locks picked through, doors not aligned: all entirely typical.

This piece required close to sixty hours of cleaning, detail repairs, replacing components, and attention before we even got to the finishing stage. It was extremely dry, absorbing a few coats of garnet shellac followed by at least ten coats of tung oil.



COMPLETING THE HUTCH RESTORATION

We love to breathe life into these creations. The original warmth of the brown oak is amazing. Diversatech reproduce the missing metal fretwork on the doors; we love CNC water jets! The Sign Smith, Dana Osterman, handled scanning and reproducing the wood corner brackets.

There is no stain; natural patina is the true beauty of wood. Our standard garnet shellac and Waterlox tung oil finish completed the project with a final coat of Renaissance Wax.



THE BENCH, THE ART, THE WINE DECEMBER 7TH, 2014

The Bench, The Art, The Wine ... a Sunday Afternoon at the vineyards, at the movies, and among the artwork for a nominal expenditure of \$69.50 per couple. This four hour exclusive event is hosted by Hopewell Valley Vineyards and offers personal interactive artist meetings, light music, wine tastings, homemade brick oven pizza, delectable desserts, a feature independent film, and a Q&A session with members of the cast, and crew.



<https://www.facebook.com/TheBenchFilms>
See more on Page 14!

The Bench: On this bench, seventeen people come to sit. Their stories are told in eight different chapters, by eight different filmmakers. Socially relevant topics are explored, such as prejudice, homophobia, and persecution. Stories told of love lost, love found, love redeemed, love remembered, and even perhaps a second chance at love... [One Day. One Park. One Bench.](#)

The Artists: Wood Turners Eric M. Saperstein of Artisans of the Valley and Thomas Whistance are offering their latest works in wood turning. www.artisansturnings.com & www.whistancewoodart.com

The Vineyard: Our hosts, Sergio and Violetta Neri enjoy the lifestyle of winemakers and patrons of the arts; they are eager to share the experience with those who travel the Delaware River Valley Wine Trail. Their award winning vintages share the same property as their home and vineyard. Enjoy an afternoon, stroll through the grape vines in the crisp autumn air, then warm up next to the brick oven, taste of wine, the smell of flat bread baking by wood fire.

Agenda of the Day

12:45pm Arrivals and will call ticket pickup begins.

1:00pm Doors open for social wine & cheese with light music.

1:45pm Opening introduction with short films including Artisans' Debut Bowl-u-mentaries, artist intros, and artist Q&A.

2:20pm Ten minute intermission.

2:30pm Feature film presentation "The Bench."

4:06pm Dessert with writer Christopher Michael Jones, Producer Jeff Stewart, & Director Lawrence R. Greenberg.

4:45pm Reception room reopens to general public for evening entertainment. All are welcome to stay!

Event Location: Hopewell Valley Vineyards 46 Yard Road, Pennington, NJ 08534 www.hopewellvalleyvineyards.com

Ticket Purchase: \$69.50 per pair plus tax purchase at: <https://artisans.ticketbud.com/the-bench-the-art-the-wine>

ARTISANS JOINS OLANA



Artisans of the Valley is proud that our turnings are now available at the Olana Museum Store. Olana State Historic Site, the home and studio of eminent Hudson River School painter Frederic Edwin Church, is a historic site administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Taconic Region. It is a designated National Historic Landmark and one of the most visited sites in the state. The Olana Partnership, a private not-for-profit education corporation, works cooperatively with New York State to support the restoration, development and improvement of [Olana State Historic Site](#).

Details about our debut will be released shortly, please contact Rachael Tice at the museum store for more information.

Olana State Historic Site * 5720 State Route 9G, Hudson, NY 12534 * 1-518-828-0135

FROM BEAM TO BOWL



Artisans first self produced video - From Beam to Bowl, a simple video montage of the evolution of a chunk of historic Douglas Fir from a reclaimed beam into a folk art style bowl. Directed, produced, filmed, sound staged, edited, scripted, starred in, and vacuuming up the chips by Eric M. Saperstein ... Master Craftsman and seriously amateur videographer.

We're sharing the second rendering, a little crisper editing and shortened slightly from the full nine minute version! Make sure to select the HD option on settings to see the full detail.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9HN-ABBM8yY>

COLLABORATIONS—TURNING TOWARDS NEW MEDIA

Artist collaborations often produce our favorite pieces. There's something that brings a unique quality to two free range artists engaging to link their talents in one creative endeavor. Adding a touch of hand made glass floral work to our turnings will be the work of Nikolaj Christensen of East Falls Glassworks in Philadelphia and Steven D. Bradway the Coppersmith of Rio Grande, NJ will be pounding out an amazing metal floral display. We're keeping this under wraps, the details will be covertly managed until just before our NYC event when a few sneak previews may happen to leak through our security detail. For now, we'll show off our friends and fellow artists; just imagine how we'll intertwine metal and glass into our unique bowls and vases.

Steven D. Bradway: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LOy4glW7K4c>

Nikolaj Christensen & East Falls Glassworks: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LEIzckSfcSk>



MANZANITA SPOONS

This was a fun experiment Stan discovered an assortment of manzanita scraps and cutoffs. A few hours later, we had three manzanita spoons! Adding to our personal knickknack collections, we periodically just turn scrap into treasure.

Folk art, rustic style, finished in tung oil. Spoons are highly collectable and make great gifts. If you know a collector, let us know as we would highly doubt that anyone has a manzanita spoon in their collection!



ANOTHER ISSUE ANOTHER LATHE

Long story short, so much for our previously hyped lathe upgrades! The machine took on a new life, then took out its main spindle. The part sheared off, leaving us without function and without the ability to obtain a new spindle. Our path now took us towards a new machine, and we opted for a combination capable machine which would offer us the ability to turn larger and heavier bowls, maintain the option for coring and hollowing, allow us to turn chair legs and table legs, and provide for expansion to handle columns or longer length blanks.

After a week of debating and hours of research we picked the Powermatic 3520B. The next steps were to prepare the shop, lots of rearrangement, remove the old machine, and setup a space to better facilitate our turning projects. We've installed lighting, moved the lathe closer to a dust collector, and we are adding some additional power outlets to provide better reach for the accessories. Within a few hours of its arrival, we were back in the spinning business!



Shown above, the first bowls created on the new machine including an Australian red mallee burl cap, a manzanita burl (root ball) bowl, and another piece of our spalted copper beech.

These three vessels provided a quick test of the machine's power, speed control, stability, and the new lighting. WOW - what a difference! Production has increased drastically!

2013-2014 MANZANITA LINEUP

Yes, more bowls! This round we've raised the bar substantially going with offset turnings, butterflies, vases, greater depth, coring, undercuts, faceted rims, and an assortment of other unique features. Live edge and textured services adorn each of these spun works of art. Last year manzanita was a new medium for us, so we've been facing a bit of a learning curve. This material is unique ... well no, let's just be honest, this stuff is a bitch to work with! Its random density, awkward inclusions, unstable formations, endless tendency for movement, and strange characteristics with moisture make it arguably the most challenging North American hardwood to work with. So why do we choose this material? For exactly the reasons we just listed! Artisans takes pride in mastering what others will cast aside as impossible to work with.



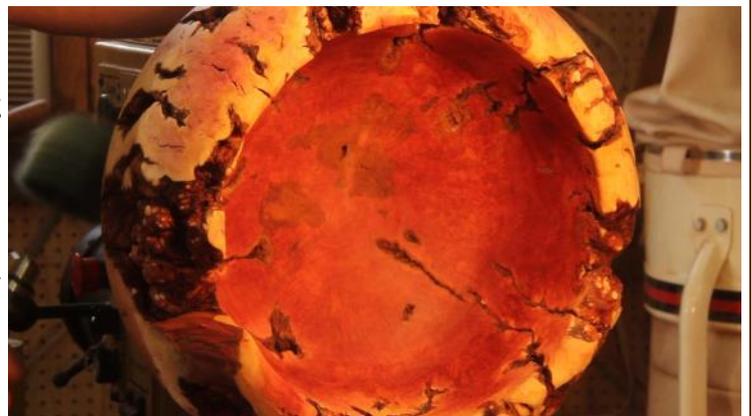
2013-2014 MANZANITA LINEUP

**FROM BRUSH TO BOWL**

This is the second independent video documentary by Artisans of the Valley; a simple and elegant montage of steps illustrating the manifestation of a bowl starting with a seventy pound wet, dirty, and random growth of manzanita root ball.

This is the largest burl we've handled to date, and we figured the perfect way to commemorate the experience was to share it with everyone. So four minutes of the most exhilarating wood spinning you'll ever see! Eh, perhaps that is an exaggeration, but marketing is all about the enthusiastic hype right?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZcv56GXssc>



R A B B I T R E S T O R A T I O N

This unique sculpture is a classic English style hunt carving. Featuring a rabbit, crows, rifles, powder horn, and leaf work. Its all about the bounty! The carving arrived very dry, the finish was near gone, cracks were forming, and the piece was very brittle. We broke it along the crack lines to ensure we reglued it with all the available surface and to avoid future cracks on the hair lines.

Missing pieces were replaced and blended in using English brown oak, the original material. This particular species of oak is coveted throughout Europe and the United States, now available only as antiques and natural fall material the trees are so rare that it is illegal to take one down without a natural reason.

We cleaned the entire surface, carefully picking out dirt and years of deteriorated finish. We made several minor repairs along the way. Next we applied additional hand cut coats of shellac, this process warms the piece and reemulsifies the original finish readying it to accept new layers and building additional fresh protection without compromising historic integrity. The final step was to apply several coats of wax to protect and moisturize the piece. This is a time consuming process, its tedious but not difficult. Multiple coats are often required, the process is to apply, but not remove the wax in the traditional wax-on/wax-off process. The wax soaks in, preserving and protecting.



[Check out more details of this restoration on our blog site!](#)

RABBIT RESTORATION



COVERAGE FROM ART ALL NIGHT 2014



This year we decided to feature two items in [Art All Night](#), our redwood butterfly table and one of our 2013 manzanita burl bowls.



Art All Night is a 24-hour choreographed extravaganza drawing over 25,000 people in a single event. Over 1,000 artists, musicians, and film makers from the region contribute artwork gaining, the notoriety of a show ranging from the famous to the refrigerator artist. For a glimpse check out the YouTube link below.

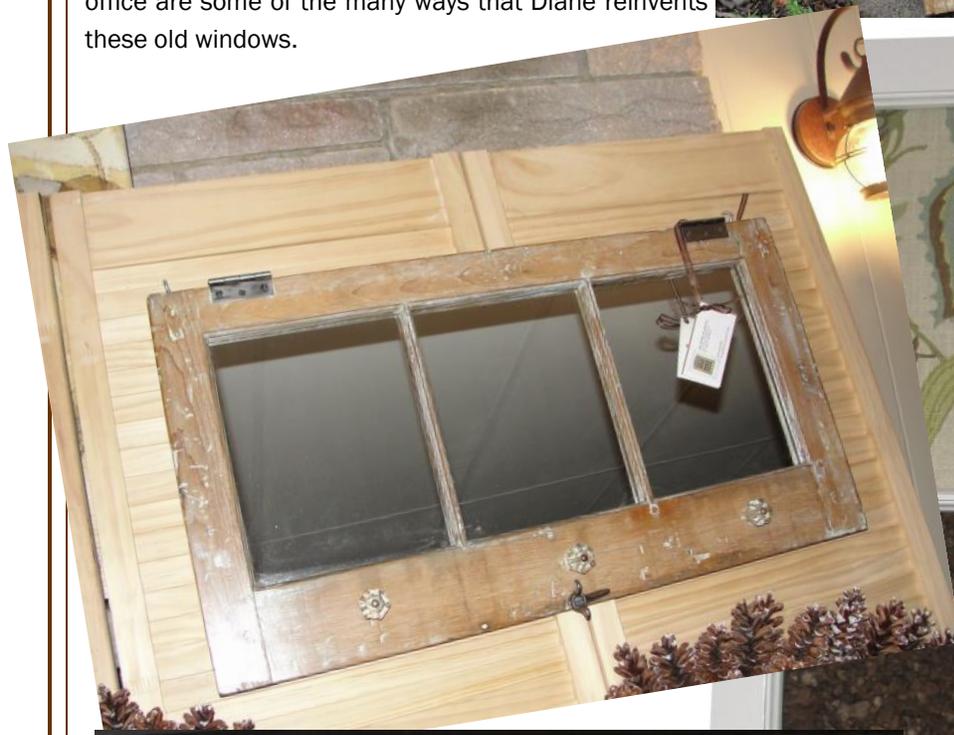
Image above taken from <https://www.facebook.com/aantrenton>.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uaObYwd0fwM>

WINDOWS RELIVE

Second chances are what Diane Abbott Hemmer sees when she finds old windows tossed to the curb. They may have been drafty but they can still be useful in many creative ways. These windows have been looked through for years, never really appreciated for what purpose they served; letting the sun shine through, protecting us from the rain and cold without interrupting the view.

Diane repurposes these finds in a way that people will no longer look through but look at in a whole new way. An entryway mirror with coat hangers, a chalkboard for messages by the phone, a wine-cork board in the kitchen of a lover of the grape, a bulletin board for the office are some of the many ways that Diane reinvents these old windows.



A second chance for a second glance. For pricing or interest in a custom window for your home contact Diane directly.

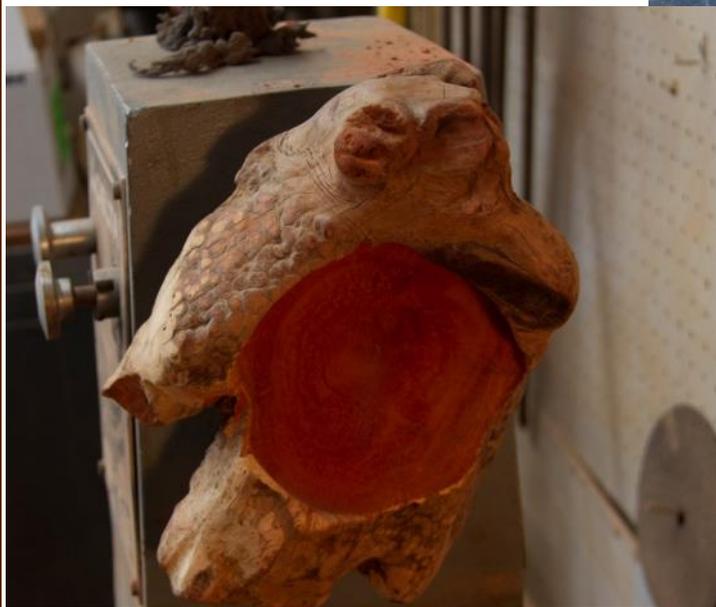
hemster@verizon.net

609-610-6888

73 BURLS

This pile of manzanita burls is destined for a variety of smaller projects such as ornaments, ring bowls, wine stoppers, and a few medium sized vessels. We're going to be experimenting a lot with live turnings. Meaning, we are going to maintain as much as possible of the original exterior of these root balls while spinning them to incorporate a cavity as a bowl or vase.

The contrast between the natural surface and the polished interior creates an amazing dynamic. This is a great example of how working with nature to develop a form that best represents the spirit of the medium can deliver the best results.



The above bowl found a forever home through Fortuna Fine Arts LTD, New York, NY just before Christmas of 2013!

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



THE BENCH

Eric's continuing desire to learn to use his expensive toys (cameras) has taken him into the world of indie films. The Bench, Debuting at Art All Night 2014, will play December 7th at Hopewell Valley Vineyards. Seventeen people sit and tell their stories in one day in the life of a park bench. Each chapter directed and filmed by a different crew, the film is not only an exploration of socially relevant topics including prejudice, homophobia, and persecution but includes love lost, love found, love redeemed, love remembered, and even perhaps a second chance at love... One Day. One Park. One Bench written by Christopher Michael Jones. Produced by Jeffery Stewart.

Each unique crew gets to embrace their vision of a single writer's storyline, originally developed to impress a girl! The rumor is, it worked. Eric's role, camera operator for Chapter Seven directed by Lawrence R. Greenberg.

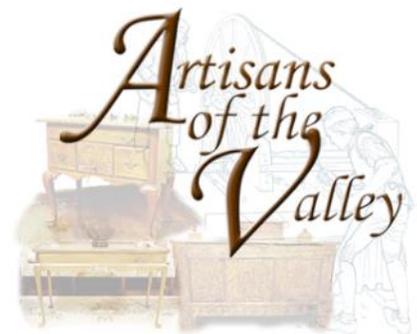
<https://www.facebook.com/TheBenchFilms>



2014 ROLLING OUT

Plans for The Red Bowl Ball - our epic NYC Event at Fortuna Fine Arts, LTD
Turning massive - What happens when we spin 100-200lb Manzanita Burls?
Phonograph Cabinet Restored

Seven Bowls in Seven Minutes - Getting closer to a feature length film!
The Tables of Fortuna ... Showing off tables we debut at the Red Bowl Ball in NYC
Finishing up the Sandy Restorations
AbOminOg Intl. Arts Collective ... This project is way to hot to handle, we're excited!



Our studio hours are by appointment. Please call ahead!

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