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A Brief Career Narrative

Forging metal has always been my choice of material and process as a sculptor. I was first introduced to this direct manipulation of metal as a student at Philadelphia College of Art (presently University of the Arts) in 1974. I was captivated by its potential as a sculptural medium. Upon graduation with a BFA in sculpture, I began working at Samuel Yellin Metalworkers in Philadelphia in 1977. This studio renowned for its excellence in hand forged metalworks dating back to 1906, was to be my training ground for the next eleven years. I began as an apprentice and worked my way up to Master Smith and head of the forging dept. While at the Yellin studios, I assisted and led on many major projects, as Gate and railing for the Washington Cathedral in DC, Display Case for the Book of Kells at the University of Pittsburgh, restoration and new reproduction of forgings at the Wilmington Train Station, Wilmington Del. Ironwork for the estate of Frederick Koch in Butler PA and numerous private commissions around the United States. In 1987 I received a 1% for the Arts Commission from the City of Philadelphia.

After eleven years at the Yellin Studios, I moved to Virginia to set up a studio with my business partner. Over the next 18 years we completed numerous commissions for private and corporate entities. In 1999-2000 I received a Virginia Museum Fellowship in Sculpture. During that time I spent a week at Rose Industries an industrial forge shop in Cleveland, Ohio, forging larger scale works. In 2002-2003 we received the Craftsmanship Award from the Virginia and West Virginia Chapters of the AIA for works in forged metals. On going exhibitions at The Reynolds Gallery in Richmond Va. and Franz Bader Gallery in Washington DC continued the sculptural works and commissions. Some of which included Richmond Times Building in Richmond, Va; Norfolk Academy in Norfolk, Va.; John and Robyn Horn Collection in Little Rock AR; John Allen Collection in Buchanan WVA; and a new sculpture for Massey Cancer Center in Richmond VA.

In 2007 I established a new studio to concentrate on more individual projects. In the past 9 years I have completed 6 major residential commissions. Exhibitions have included a 2 person show at Page Bond Gallery in Richmond, VA 2009; a group exhibition at the American University Art Museum, Washington DC in 2009-10; a group exhibition at the Art Museum of the Americas in Washington DC in 2009-2010 and a group exhibition at the Historical Society in Washington, DC in 2010. Teaching multiple workshops at the Peters Valley Center for the Crafts in NJ, Touchstone Center for the Crafts in Farmington, PA and Center for Metal Arts in Florida, NY. in 2012. The following year of 2013 I was invited to Ivano-Franvisk in the Ukraine to create a sculpture for their festival. In 2014 I had a feature article published in Metal Design International 2014 publication, followed by an invitation to do a sculpture for the California Blacksmithing Association annual conference.

Work continues in the studio with 2 major commissions underway, a set of barn door hinges and a set of residential gates and window grilles. This summer I again will be running a workshop in Oregon where we will create a sculpture with 8 western smiths. and a weekend demo @ Government Camp, and sculpture workshop for the California Blacksmiths at Adams Forge in Los Angeles.





























