

Scott Nelles

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Experience

Nelles Studios, Elk Rapids, MI

1978-Present

Owns and operates an art foundry solely dedicated to casting artwork and decorative items of my own design in bronze and aluminum.

The Frazer Bronze Foundry and Stewart Brass Foundry, Seattle, WA

1974-1978

Gained foundry experience through observation and tutelage of John Frazer and Red Stewart in their respective foundries. I owe a great deal to these men who gave me first hand experience in operating a green sand foundry.

Muskie Bay Trapping Company, Ferndale, MI

1969-1972

Owned and operated a retail leather business producing handmade leather items.

Studied shoemaking under Antonio Bava, New York Custom Shoe Shop; Detroit, Michigan

Studied under Phillip Hawks at Greenfield Village, Henry Ford Museum; Dearborn, Michigan

Further study in leatherwork at Colonial Williamsburg; Williamsburg, Virginia

Education

Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan

Oakland County Community College, Orchard Lake, Michigan

Center for Creative Studies, Detroit, Michigan

Commissions

2018, Created "Seed Pod" sculpture for Leo Creek Preserve in Suttons Bay, Michigan

2018, Created large landscape for the offices of Lifatec, USA, Elbridge, New York

2016, Was chosen from a variety of competitors to design and produce awards for the National Chapter of SCORE (Senior Corps of Retired Executives.) The commission consisted of up to 30 awards to be produced per year for 3 years. In addition to the awards, I also created a one-of-a-kind larger sculpture entitled "Main Street" that now resides at the National SCORE executive offices in Washington D.C.

1980 - Present: Created multiple miniature reproductions based on Alexander Calder's sculpture, "La Grande Vitesse" for the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Film

2016, Featured in the series "A Craftsman's Legacy" on the American Public Broadcasting network. My segment "The Sandcaster" is the premiere episode of season three.

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1984-85, "Creating a Living, Artists in Business", a one-hour in depth documentary film depicting my sculpture and casting work and life style. One other artist, Chip Stulen, was also featured in this episode demonstrating his boat building skills and lifestyle. Produced by Brauer Productions, Traverse City, Michigan.

Awards

2018 Winner of the People's Choice Award, Experience ArtRapids 2018, Elk Rapids, Michigan

2018 Honorable Mention, Experience ArtRapids 2018, Elk Rapids, Michigan

2016 Best in Metal, KRASL Art Fair, St. Joseph, Michigan

2017 Best in Metal, KRASL Art Fair, St. Joseph, Michigan

2005 Honorable mention, Regional Show, Dennon Museum Center, Traverse City, Michigan

1999 Honorable mention, Regional Show, Dennon Museum Center, Traverse City, Michigan

1977 Honorable mention, Northwest Crafts Exhibition, Seattle Washington

1972 Winner of the James Yaw Gallery Award at the Michigan Artist Craftsman Show, Detroit Institute of Arts

1972 "Best in Show" at the Sommerset Invitational Art Exhibition; Troy, Michigan

Work in Private Collections of:

Songwriter & Singer, Sr. Elton John.

Coach Leatherware

Actress Julia Roberts

Olympian Hope Solo

Work Shown in Publications

2018, CAST: Art and Objects, Schiffer Publishing

Numerous Newspapers throughout the United States

Numerous Catalogs including Artful Home and Uncommon Goods

Michigan Artist Craftsman Catalogue

1976, National Geographic Magazine, December,

1973, The Art of Working with Leather by Stephen Edwards, Chilton Book Company

1972, Ann Arbor Art Fair Catalogue

Plant Hangers, by Dona Z. Meilach, Crown Publishing Company

Shows & Exhibitions

2018 CAST: Art & Objects, Wayne Art Center, Wayne, Pennsylvania

1987 One Man Show Koucky Gallery; Charlevoix, Michigan

1986 Alumni Show, Center for creative Studies; Detroit, Michigan

1986 Looking at Earth Art Show, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution; Washington, D.C.

1986 Group Show, Traverse City Arts Council; Traverse City, Michigan

1985 Group Show, Cade Gallery; Royal Oak, Michigan

1983 Michigan Fine Arts Competition, Birmingham Bloomfield Arts Association, Birmingham, Michigan

1982 Two Man Show, Indianapolis Museum of Arts; Indianapolis, Indiana

1980 Michigan Artists 80-81, Midland Center for the Arts; Midland, Michigan

1979 "Skin Forms", Innovations in leather, H.F. Johnson Museum, Cornell University; Ithaca New York.

Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Coach Leather purchased a piece from this show for their permanent collection of leather art.

1977 Northwest Crafts Exhibition; Seattle, Washington

1977 Invitational Exhibitions Bellevue Art Museum; Bellevue, Washington

1975 Northwest Crafts Annual; Seattle, Washington

1974 "Toy Show", Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association; Birmingham, Michigan

1974 "What a Dish", plate show, Polly Friedlander Gallery; Seattle, Washington

1973 Beaux Arts Designer Craftsman, Columbus Art Institute; Columbus, Ohio

1972 Michigan Artist Craftsman Show, Detroit Institute of Arts; Detroit, Michigan

1972 Sommerset Art Show; Troy, Michigan

Significant Festival Shows:

1990-2017 American Craft Enterprises; Baltimore, Maryland

1986 American Craft Enterprises; West Springfield, Massachusetts

1973 Milwaukee Lake Front Festival; Milwaukee, Wisconsin

1972-1974 Ann Arbor Art Fair; Ann Arbor, Michigan

1972 Northeast Crafts Fair; Rhinebeck, New York

Trade Shows:

2014-2018 American Craft Retailer Expo, (ACRE) Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

2016 – 2018 American Craft Council, Baltimore, Maryland

1990-2016 New York International Gift Show, New York

1990-2000 Buyers' market of American crafts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Representing Galleries: The current representing list of galleries is over two hundred nationally

Teaching Workshops

1974 Evergreen State College; Olympia, Washington

1974 University of Washington Experimental College; Seattle, Washington

Travel

British Isles, Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, France and Belgium & Argentina