

Holly J. Fisher

CURRENT POSITION

Artist Blacksmith, Flying Anvil Forge. Mounds, OK.

PAST POSITIONS

Safety Coordinator, S&R Compression. Tulsa, OK. 2014 – 2017.

Project Coordinator, National Ornamental Metal Museum. Memphis, TN. 2011-2014.

Artist in Residence, National Ornamental Metal Museum. Memphis, TN. 2010-2011.

Program Director, Smartshop Metal Arts Center. Kalamazoo, MI. 2002-2010.

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Art, Sculpture. The University of Montana, Missoula, MT. 1995.

Bachelor of Fine Art, Sculpture. Truman State University, Kirksville, MO. 1992.

EXPERIENCE

For many years I was able to practice art full time as well as teach it. After a brief hiatus I now have a fully functioning blacksmith shop, a pack of fresh ideas and enough perspective to create some fine work. Since my return to the smithy I've discovered that there is a flow and character that only experience and hindsight can render. I've looked to facets of past works and sought new departures. The context of the new work is genuine, current and pertinent.

I identify as an Artist Blacksmith but you could call me a Metal Sculptor or just a Sculptor. I like metal, I like forming and fabricating it. I create objects that are mindfully crafted, unique and provoking. I am fascinated by ancient blacksmithing processes and utilize those alongside current technologies.

I fashion my sculptures to be tools or instruments whose purpose is to assist humans in successfully completing metaphysical tasks. Tasks like coping, deciding, processing, reacting and growing. My sculptures contain, filter, capture and sometimes vaporize thoughts and/or feelings. My sculptures are both appliances for relief and mechanisms for personal growth.

SELECTED SHOWS

VisionMakers 2018 108 Contemporary, Tulsa Oklahoma. Emily Zilber, Juror.

Warbonnet Reveal Flying Anvil Forge, Mounds, OK. 2016.

Re-make/Re-model National Ornamental Metal Museum. Memphis, TN. 2011

Iron: Forged Tempered Quenched Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (HCCC). Houston, TX. 2010

Glass Meets Metal Water Street Glassworks, Benton Harbor, MI. 2010

Taming the Flame: Decorative Artworks in Iron and Glass Saginaw Art Museum, Saginaw, MI. 2007

The Forge: Contemporary Metal Artists Invitational Midland Center For The Arts, Midland, MI. 2006

Bloom: Forged with Fire & Force Brookfield Craft Center, Brookfield, CT. 2006

Perfect Worlds and Lucid Dreams Thirdstone Art Gallery, Saugatuck, MI. 2004

Women in White Krasl Art Center, St. Joseph, MI. 2004

Art at Your Fingertips Garfield Artworks, Pittsburgh, PA. 2004

Teapots on Parade Krasl Arts Center, St. Joseph, MI. 2001

GRANTS & AWARDS

Local Initiative Support Corporation's 20 Community Heroes. October 2008.

Cool Cities Catalyst Grant, The State of Michigan, June 2004

The Irving S. Gilmore Emerging Artist Grant, 2004

NICHE Awards Finalist. NICHE Magazine. December 2007.

Kalamazoo College W.I.T. Award, February 2007.
Business Review's Top Business Leaders Under 40. October 2006.
The Arts Council of Kalamazoo's County Artsfund Grant, 2001
The Irving S. Gilmore Emerging Artist Grant, 2000.
Artserve Michigan's Creative Artist Grant, 1998.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Participant and competitor in the 22nd Edition European Biennial of the Blacksmith, Stia Italy. 2017.
Participant and competitor in the 22nd Edition European Biennial of the Blacksmith, Stia Italy. 2013.
Curriculum Consultant, Woodward School for Technology and Research. 2009 – 2012.
Participant Eisenfest, Freisothe, Germany. 2009.
Auctioneer, Repair Days, Metal Museum. 2004 – 2014.
Participant, Ferro Insight 2005, Vechta, Germany. May 2005.
Founder, SmartShop Metal Arts Center. 2002.

RESIDENCIES

The National Ornamental Metal Museum, Memphis TN. January - March 2010
Ragdale Foundation, Lake Forest IL. 1995.
Montana Artist's Refuge, Basin, MT. 1995.

PERMANENT COLLECTIONS

Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo. Kalamazoo Chamber of Commerce.
City of Kalamazoo: Jack Coombs Trail. Bronson Hospital. Community AIDS Resource and Education Services. Hi-Cor Corporation. Southwest Michigan First. Spartan Stores. Tower Pinkster Associates.
U.S. Flow / Bertsch Company. University of Montana. Wellspring Dance Company. Food Dance Cafe and Market. Vine Street Neighborhood Association.