

Chris Kamm

Working Inside The Box

I came to this profession by a circuitous route. After the customary amount of academic experience, I found myself in the equally stressful and compensated aeries of banking and finance. But a vacation in California became a life change, as one box closed and another opened. I found a new job as an apprentice woodcrafter in the fall of 1982. That was at first the means to get through the winter in the mountains around Donner Pass. Years elapsed in that job beyond that first winter, until circumstances eventually led me to San Francisco ten years later. Lacking a better idea, I opened my own studio, and commenced to run through successive periods of kid's furniture, lawn furniture, faux finish cases and café tables. All the while, I remembered my apprenticeship learning marquetry and inlay techniques on small- scale objects.

In 1995, I entered a box design contest. More memorable than my score was the fact that people bought them. They still do, and I have learned that the surprise inside is just as important as the exterior. The outside is like a kiss...keep it simple and sweet. The inside completes the expectation of what a box might be used for. Since 1997, I have resided in western North Carolina and have devoted nearly all my studio time to boxes. With each one comes a card bearing my philosophy on boxes as well as life....

...in this modern age, the warmth of polished wood offers relief from the digital, the virtual, and the fleeting. I use simple designs with dramatic materials to make this box a secret place for your treasures – real and virtual.

Care of wooden boxes is easy. Avoid direct sunlight and rub in a dab of furniture grade paste wax a few times a year.

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