

Pati Stajcar

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PIECE?

Always my next one. But if I had to choose something I've finished already, probably *Transitions*. It's both an honoring-in-death and a circle-of-life piece. The back goes from the raw wood of the red tailed hawk's tail through the carving of mantling over a wigeon, who's feet are back in raw wood. It's my Pietà.

WHY DO YOU LIKE TO CARVE STYLIZED PIECES?

The viewer becomes more involved in the piece when he has to think about what he is looking at rather than having me put every detail in the story. Then he brings something to the story from his experiences. I do still use the anatomical knowledge I gained when doing realistic carvings, but I adapt that to the piece of wood I'm working with, hopefully growing as an artist with each new piece.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE WOOD?

For stylized carving, normally I use red cedar burls from Washington State. They're hard to come by but well worth the trouble. A burl is a growth on the side of the tree that grows around a previous injury, so the grain is absolutely unpredictable. That's what I like, it's like a Tootsie Pop™; it has a surprise inside. There are many times when I'm carving along and I get to a point where the wood makes me change my direction. It always makes it a better piece because I have to rethink my intentions and accommodate the intentions of the wood. For realistic carving, I still like basswood. It has a nice tight grain that normally doesn't show up in the finished piece, which usually happens with jelutong or tupelo.



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WHY DO YOU WORK IN THIS STYLE?

I'm prone to say that my subject matter is design, flow and balance. I just happen to use nature to hopefully portray that. I want the lines to be pleasing to the eye and hope that the viewer wants to reach out and touch it. In fact I hope they do run their hands over my work; it will give them an idea of how I feel when I'm creating.

WHAT OTHER COMMENTS DO YOU HAVE ABOUT YOUR CARVINGS OR CARVING STYLE?

The only thing I want from my carvings is to grow with each new piece. I don't want to stagnate into one perceived style; I like to play.



Photo by Todd Schrock.com

Transitions
by Pati Stajcar
Red tail hawk on wigeon
Red cedar burl



Gauntlet (above)
by Pati Stajcar
Bald eagle
Red cedar burl



Deathwatch (right)
by Pati Stajcar
Great horned owl
Red cedar burl

Photo by Axel Schrockner

Dance of Kings
by Pati Stajcar
Peacocks
Red cedar burl



Photo by Axel Schrockner



Whirlwind Romance
by Pati Stajcar
Mourning doves
Red cedar burl



Sleepy Hollow (above)
by Pati Stajcar
Great horned owls
Red cedar burl



Puddle Jumper
by Pati Stajcar
Herons
Red cedar burl



Photo by Matt Schuchman

Surrender
by Pati Stajcar
Flamingos
Red cedar burl