

# Artisans Quarterly Review

## ARTISANS OF THE VALLEY

### 2011, Late in the 4th Qtr

- **Wow, 2011 is Over!?**
- **The Blending of Art & Wine 2012**
- **The Blending of Art & Wine 2011**
- **Tanked Episode 5 "Good Karma"**
- **Trenton Times Feature Article**
- **Hopewell Valley News Feature**
- **A Few Box Repairs**
- **Breezin' with Berman**
- **The Artwork of Kurt Tanzelaar**
- **The Live Free or Die Eagle**
- **A Concrete Dovetail Bench**
- **Concrete & Bubinga Table**
- **Scrapes, Clamps, and Planes**
- **A Modern Floating Shelf Unit**
- **Fun with Video**
- **A French Desk Restoration**
- **Modern Metal Work**
- **Eagle Stocks**
- **Ink & Oak**
- **Stopping the Wine**
- **Artisans Gem of an Opportunity**
- **Frock and Roll - 2012**

### W O W , 2 0 1 1 I S O V E R ! ?

Well this was supposed to be the 4th Qtr 2011 Issue, and we'll still call it that. We shall follow tradition and reflect on what we accomplished this year. For starters, we still exist and that is apparently better than average! A lot of artists folded up shop in the past two years, as well as several of our suppliers. Beyond mere survival, we've restructured a bit and worked into some new markets, and it seems we've gotten some great PR.

Somehow we managed to get ourselves featured on Animal Planet's new series "Tanked," which has opened a lot opportunities. It was a great year for publicity, we managed to appear on three newspaper covers (The Times, The Hopewell Valley News, and The Hopewell Express) appear on live local TV, and worked with WZBN to support Trenton Animal Shelter.

With the influence of Michael Pietras Artisans began to prototype several new modern creations and we've begun the intertwining of concrete and wood.

We joined with the Delaware River Valley Wine Trail, forging a new alliance to market artwork and of course wine! Watch for a Guild chartered to further develop relationships between artists, craftsmen, and vineyards. We have more events pending next year, and perhaps the formation of an Artisans, and venues for the display of artwork.

We're also developing a promo video, you may get to see it soon but we're not sharing the reasons why. As we lay out our plans for 2012 we are extremely curious how it will all come together.

## T H E B L E N D I N G O F A R T & W I N E S E C O N D C O M I N G I N 2 0 1 2

Given we are a little late with our last issue of 2011, we're announcing "The Blending of Art & Wine 2012" before we get a chance to recap how our event went in 2011. Obviously it was a success if we're going to do it again right? The main event will take place on the grounds of Hopewell Valley Vineyards, a member of the Delaware River Valley Wine Trail. (DRVWT)

Details and participation plans by each member for this event will be posted in our next issue. The DRVWT Vineyards are [Old York Cellars](#), [Terhune Orchards & Winery](#), and [Unionville Winery](#) - Our Host [Hopewell Valley Vineyards](#) is located at 46 Yard Road in Pennington, NJ.

We have a lot of ideas in the works, this year's event is going to add a few interesting twists, more art, maybe a little fashion, music, and some additions to the available food groups; don't worry HVV's famous brick oven pizza is still on the menu!

Artisans will once again be planning to debut pieces from our new modern furniture collections. We've got some great materials we have scavenged, we are continuing to work in concrete and we're going to add a few pieces of steel to our inventory of components.

**The call for artists is out! Please contact us for more information about this event.**



# THE BLENDING OF ART & WINE



"The Blending of Art & Wine" went live on September 10th & 11th, the two day event was a success bringing in a crowd to enjoy a great variety of artistic creations not to mention the wine and pizza! Our interactive venue and plan turned out to be a hit, no booths, no velvet ropes. We wanted to achieve open communications between the artists and the public; it seems to have worked!

We've established some great new relationships, we're discussing options to assemble a guild of sorts, and we're working out details for more events next year. We'll keep you posted and reveal the master plan; well, some time shortly after we figure out exactly what that plan is!



### TANKED EPISODE 5 "GOOD KARMA"

So, we made it onto national television! Artisans' feature aired September 9th on Animal Planet. Our "Sea Chest Bed," according to [Acrylic Tank Manufacturing's](http://www.acrylic-tank.com) CEO Wayde R. King, was a "vital part to the success of our up and coming reality show "Tanked." He added that "the scene was exactly what we wanted."

We're happy to have gained some new friends and experiences, we appreciate the opportunity for exposure, and we look forward to our next covert projects that may just result in some additional national exposure!

<http://animal.discovery.com/videos/tanked-reveal-a-boat-for-chille.html>

### "HOPEWELL WOODWORKER TO APPEAR ON ANIMAL PLANET"

We have to thank The Times of NJ and reporter Joyce J. Persico for getting us the front page on Saturday September 3rd of 2011! This feature article discusses our involvement in Animal Planet's "Tanked and promotes "The Blending of Art & Wine."

[http://www.nj.com/mercer/index.ssf/2011/09/hopewell\\_woodworker\\_to\\_appear.html](http://www.nj.com/mercer/index.ssf/2011/09/hopewell_woodworker_to_appear.html)

Check out the full article at the link above, a preview of the project was featured including the image below taken by Cie Stroud.

### A FEW BOX REPAIRS

Sometimes simple forms make for the best examples of how well repairs can go. This award display box arrived cracked on both sides and the frame was separated at the mitered corners.

We broke it down, repaired it, and refinished it. Sometimes it even amazes us when we go back and can't find signs of our own restorations. We're also offering a reminder that restorations are not just for furniture. Bring us your broken picture frames, your damaged awards, and your smashed sculptures. We can restore just about anything that can be made from wood!



Cie Stroud for The Times

Eric Saperstein of Artisans of the Valley sits on a sea chest / bed he built that rests in his studio in Hopewell, N.J. April 19, 2011. He was commissioned to build it for a 3 1/2 year old New York City heart patient. It will appear on Animal Planet's new show, "Tanked."

## BREEZIN' WITH BIERMAN

Adam Bierman (right) and Kurt Tazelaar (left) host a unique local Princeton Community Television show "Breezin' with Bierman," Which features a variety of interviews and skits from local celebrities, business owners, politicians, artists, and musicians.

Well it just so happens that Eric falls into, I guess we'll call it the "local artist" category! Adam had a free spot on his schedule on August 26th; this was perfect a live local media outlet for Eric to get a chance to babble!

Thanks to Adam and his crew for the interview, and for helping us promote "The Blending of Art & Wine" and our appearance on Animal Planet's show "Tanked." Developing this interactive relationship brought us some new friends including director Lawrence Greenberg. Lawrence followed up with us to begin work on a promotional video starting with documenting our show at Hopewell Valley Vineyards. We're looking forward to increasing our video exposure both online and through local media!

Check it out if you're local, ongoing every Friday at 8pm!

Take a peak at our interviews at the following link. We're in for August and October of 2011!

<http://vimeo.com/channels/bierman>

## THE ARTWORK OF KURT TAZELAAR

*"I spent most of my adult creative life working in music - writing various kinds of songs and managing to transition from one genre to another. These transitions were unplanned but had the effect of keeping me from getting stale. Just a few years ago I got around to experimenting with some visual design concepts, and one thing led to another which led to another, and I wound up making paintings on canvas.*

*I bring a songwriting approach to the visual arts, particularly in the editing and the rethinking of works in progress. I like to make my pieces "starable" - dense interweaving overlapping directions and motions that aim to come across as a controlled improvisation, that are semi-referential with implied forms."* - Kurt Tazelaar

Kurt joined us in September for "The Blending of Art & Wine," adding some much needed color to the show. We're hoping to attract more painters to the next event coming this June 2nd and 3rd. Please contact us if you would like to join us!



Kurt Tazelaar, Eric Saperstein, & Adam Bierman



## LIVE FREE OR DIE EAGLE

Inspired from running into a lineup of brand new Camaros customized by an organization called “Fueled by the Fallen,” this project follows Eric’s ongoing eagle carving habit. The chainsaw carving was completed by Bob Eigenrauch, leaving Eric to handle the detailed feather work and providing a really cool shield grasped in the talons of a life sized spread winged eagle.

An eagle, grasping a shield bearing an eagle combining “Live Free or Die” and “Never Forget” would definitely make a statement. Given this is one of those “for us” projects, keep an eye, it will progress as time allows. This is going to be one of our demo carvings projects for a while until it’s finally ready to paint and put on display!

DOVETAIL BENCH  
A “MEMORIAL” IN CONCRETE

Concrete is Mike’s pet medium. We’re not quite sure what blast of insanity possessed him to work with a material that is ridiculously heavy?! Perhaps this is the excuse Eric needs to buy a front end loader to move these pieces around though ... that COULD be a plus if all of you decide to buy one!

Kidding aside, concrete furniture is nearly indestructible, endures all forms of weather, we can work it into almost any form or color you want, and it is environmentally sound. Since it is often recycled and can incorporate any number of scraps, random stones, glass, metals, or other recycled materials, it can be considered an “upcycle” material.

This bench is just the first of many pending designs, you’ll be seeing several more pieces come out in the spring and next summer. We’ll be working on mold design and fabrication this winter. We’ll also be developing tables in an assortment of sizes and there’s a chance you may see a bird bath incorporating some color for a change! I think we’ve all had enough of the classic white and gray concrete look; definitely time for a change!

Now here’s where things get really interesting. We have the option of turning these pieces into true memorials. If you want a permanent method for keeping the ashes of a loved one or pet we can safely mix them with concrete and after adding an appropriate marker, this original design furniture can hold a lot more than just an artistic and functional form. We’re taking orders for this bench design for delivery this spring so get in touch with us NOW if you’d like to be the first on your block to be showing off your new concrete furniture this spring.



### CONCRETE & BUBINGA

We warned you that some new and interesting projects were coming. Our recent show [“The Blending of Art & Wine”](#) gave us the opportunity to debut the result of our sudden desire to entangle concrete and wood. Well, this was Mike Pietras’s desire, Eric remained a bit skittish through the process until it all came together.

The modern class of furniture allows creative freedom; the rules of classic design are thrown out and we get to develop whatever comes to mind. This table is solid, stable, uses wood from certified renewable sources, and concrete which we’ve already explained is environmentally friendly.



## SCRAPES, CLAMPS, AND PLANES

Just a few in progress shots from the French desk restoration. The replacement surface is solid oak, hand scraped to appear as it did originally. Most of our commissions are scraped for a final step before finishing, many restorations also include a light scraping to finalize the prep.

Bottom left, ever wonder how many clamps it takes to properly veneer one curved drawer front? One of these days we should get a vacuum setup, but until then we pull out a couple dozen clamps and employ them all.

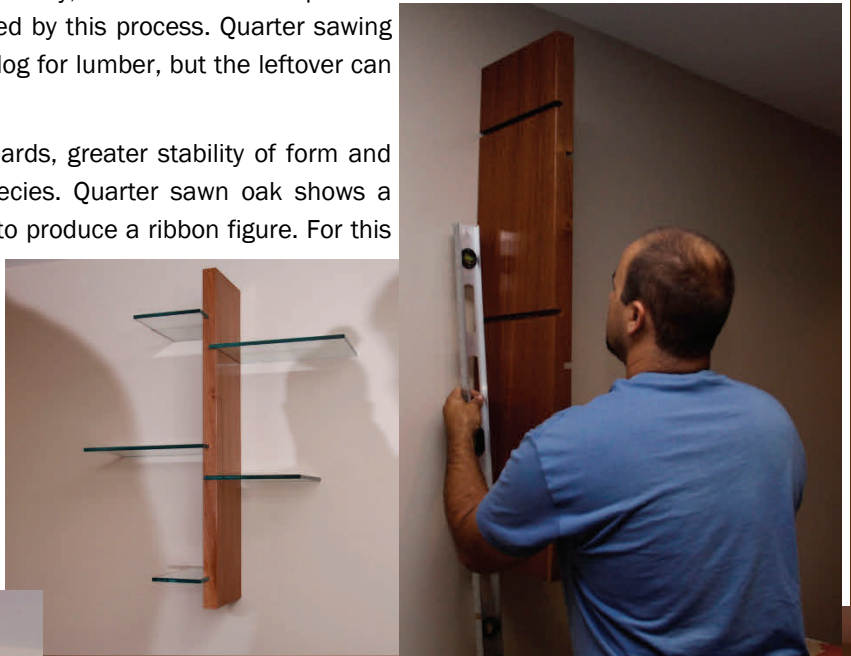
## A MODERN QUARTER SAWN SAPELE FLOATING SHELF

Our clients are familiar with Artisans preference for Quarter Sawn White Oak, we use it in our gothic furniture as well as in mission, country, arts & crafts, and a variety of other projects. What's new in our lineup is a piece made out of Quarter Sawn Sapele.

When a log is "quarter sawn" it means it is cut exactly radially (towards the heart of the log), the blade traverses at right angles to the growth rings. While we strive to be environmentally friendly, we'll make the exception to optimization of quantity of material for the quality gained by this process. Quarter sawing reduces the amount of material produced from a given log for lumber, but the leftover can be used for a variety of other purposes.

There are two main reasons to prefer quarter sawn boards, greater stability of form and size and for its decorative effect with a few lucky species. Quarter sawn oak shows a prominent ray fleck, while quarter sawn sapele is likely to produce a ribbon figure. For this project we selected a sapele plank that revealed a very nice ribbon effect in the grain.

Ewing Glass provided us with the shelving, which locks into the grooves without fasteners or adhesive. The shelves can be interchanged anywhere on the supporting center structure. As you'll find with most of our modern projects the design and execution of this piece was by Michael Pietras.



# WE'RE HAVING SOME FUN WITH VIDEO!

We're just throwing out some teasers at this point, nothing specific, and no formal announcements. We just so happened to meet Director & Producer Lawrence R. Greenberg and we were lucky enough to recruit Irina Signatovich and Carley Kleinbart for camera duty. All generously offered their talents towards a demo video project.

We're as curious as you all may be as to where this project takes us. All we can say is we're gonna have a lot of fun and we have several potential opportunities. We're unique, highly skilled, and definitely have eclectic personalities. Artisans of the Valley is ripe for reality television; TV could use a family like ours!



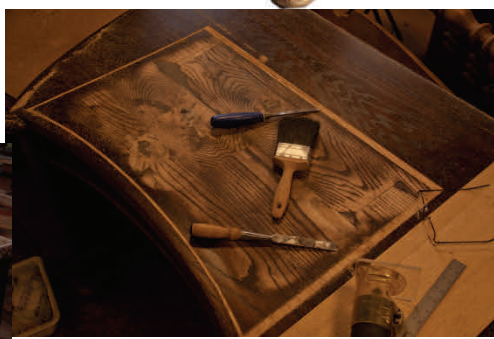
Irina Signatovich, Lawrence R. Greenberg, Jenna Deforte Stan Saperstein, Eric Saperstein, Michael Pietras



## FRENCH DESK RESTORATION

This desk really restored nicely, a huge turnaround from when it arrived. We removed the dark and dead stains and finish and brought it up with a classic Early American.

Finished in garnet shellac and a hand rubbed Waterlox tung oil this heirloom not only looks great but is now ready to withstand another 100 years of function.





### MODERN METAL WORK

Located in downtown Trenton, NJ, Modern Metal Work specializes in fashioning beautiful and functional works of art from reclaimed and salvaged materials. They create Fire Bowls, Fire Screens, and architectural elements utilizing wire-rope elevator cable upcycled from the industrial waste-stream. The crew from Modern Metal Works joined us at Hopewell Vineyards to feature their work at "The Blending of Art and Wine" and again in October for a collaborative marketing photo shoot!



### 2012 SPEC WOOD

Speculation projects are often those we do to bring our portfolio into new markets. You've seen our concrete bases come to life under the bubinga slab table. We have plans for a few more pieces coming up this spring.

So far we have a black limba plank, a redwood burl slice, a Paulownia flitch, and a variety of mulberry and osage orange. Stay tuned for updates on these feature projects!

If it's not clear THESE ARE FOR SALE! So if you see something you like, contact us to discuss a custom commission with this material!



## STOPPING THE WINE

A combination of 375 year old quarter sawn white oak and English Walnut from the King's forests attached to a titanium stopper. This is a very simple small wood project, but contains centuries of history and technology combined into a very unique object!

One of our 2012 goals it to try to use our scraps and misc chunks of wood for unique projects. These random chunks can provide interesting accessories such as wine stoppers, pens, letter openers, business card holders, small boxes, etc. We're always swimming in scrap wood, and we hate to see it go to waste!

The thing is, we barely have the time to keep up with commissions and restorations, let alone do our creative and fun small projects. So what we're going to say is this, if you're interested in something small and unique LET US KNOW! We'll work it in with your main project!

If you commission a piece from us, unless it's a single slab, we're going to have scrap material leftover! Think about how you'd like to use it! Depending on the material we can provide you with lots of options to cover your holiday gift list or provide you with unique personalized accessories!



## INK & OAK

As we speak of options for extra materials how about pens? Here's a couple provided to us by Chuck Hill of "Pens from the Past." Chuck specializes in unique and historic pens turned from a variety of materials generally hosting historic value.

Just for fun, Eric decided his next annoyingly obsessive objective is going to be to get a pen made in every known (and to be discovered) species of wood. Then of course within those species there's options for different figuring such as burl or crotch, birds eye, etc. This could take a while!

We're also going to take this opportunity to design a unique display case(s) to display the pending to exist collection. Thinking maybe a nice shadow box perhaps in a very simple maple, something to provide a good contrast to the majority of the contents. A nice flocking over the back. Of course since this is a personal project, it will be interesting to see just how long it takes to complete!



## EAGLE STOCKS

This is a similar pattern to one we've featured before, but it really came out nice so we figured we'd just throw it in again and remind everyone that we can turn your old wall hanger into a unique work of art.

Please don't ship us guns though! Contact us to discuss carving option. We really only want the wood components. We can provide options for all sorts of custom carvings!

## PLAYING WITH WOOD

We're really not sure what we're going to do with all this just yet, but we seem to have obtained truck loads of mulberry, apple, and osage orange. We'll be setting up for a lot of interesting turnings including bowls, pens, wine stoppers, tool handles, other misc projects as well as furniture.

Playing with wood is another green initiative, we're harvesting (scavenging) wood from local sources. Storm falls, trees at the end of their natural life, orchard cuttings, sustainable harvest, and cutting for various projects. The discards will be used as firewood or composted. This method redirects materials destined for the waste stream into projects offering functional value. We'll be prepping this material for use next year!



## ARTISANS GETS A GEM OF AN OPPORTUNITY!

Artisans is now a retailer for Gem Industries! We liked this 16lb random orbital sander so much we figured we could no longer hide the secret. Now we're taking it a step further and setting up to share one of our professional tricks with our colleagues, and it's really very simple. If you'd like to cut your sanding and finish prep time down to about 1/3 of what you're doing now, BUY THIS MACHINE!

Think about the concept, it's an 11" sanding surface that is continuously in contact with the surface. The perfectly balanced machine weighs almost 18lbs with the shroud attachment. It glides along, effortlessly cutting away under its own weight. We'd equate it to pushing a small hovercraft around on a table, it's effortless to operate!

Artisans has been working w/ Richard Biederman of Gem Industries to test their new heavy duty hard pad, pushing the machine's capabilities and performance even further. The sander not only has a voracious appetite for wood, but will polish solid surfaces, stone, metal, and of course you can still use it for its original origin in automotive finish detailing.



**So here's our deal of the century:** \$699 will get you one assembled polisher configured for woodworking including the dust shroud, the standard sanding pad, and 40 11" discs delivered anywhere in the continental US. One use, one project, and the machine will have earned its keep in time and effort. After that, you're free to reap the ongoing benefits! Contact us for information on how to purchase custom cut 11" Velcro back discs from 40 through 320 grit.

Here's Artisans first demo video with the machine. We'll be setting up soon to provide examples of how this system will work with the new highly aggressive hard pad as well as demonstrating performance with other materials.

Artisans Gem Orbital Sander Demo <http://youtu.be/Tg1blbqHoAw>

# ARTISANS OF THE VALLEY

## HAND CRAFTED CUSTOM WOODWORKING



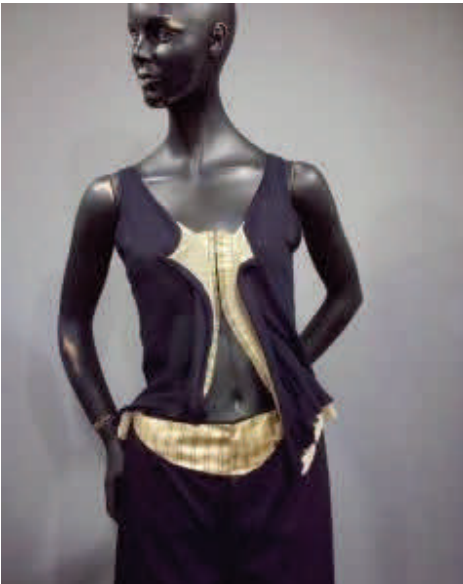
[Artisans of the Valley](#) offers museum quality period reproductions, original designs by commission, antique restoration/conservation services, hand carving, modern furniture refinishing, onsite furniture repair, hand made walking sticks, and educational programs. Our website is now over 250 pages, including galleries, feature articles, educational sections, company background, and our adventure album section. We extend an open invitation to explore our site, and please contact us directly with any inquiries or questions you may have.

Eric M. Saperstein is Master of Artisans, Owner, Webmaster, Editor, Bookkeeper, Buyer, Office Manager, Legal Pit-bull, and he's in charge of vacuuming the shop: [eric@artisansofthevalley.com](mailto:eric@artisansofthevalley.com)

Stanley D. Saperstein, Master Craftsmen, Author, and Historian founded Artisans of the Valley in 1973. Stanley offers historic presentations, impressions, and various lecture series including Civil and Revolutionary War, American Folk Art, and Interactive Role Play of Characters ... sometimes trying to reenact American Chopper episodes in the shop: [woodcarver@artisansofthevalley.com](mailto:woodcarver@artisansofthevalley.com)



### “ F R O C K & R O L L : F A S H I O N T H A T R O C K S ! ”



Design by Jean Paul Gaultier

Pamela Ptak, a fashion designer from season 7 of Lifetime Television's "Project Runway" curated an upcoming exhibit of garments & accessories featuring pieces by international designers Alexander McQueen, Jean Paul Gaultier & Vivienne Westwood and emerging designers like Mila Hermanovski who appears on the new series "Project Runway All Stars", airing Thursday nights at 9PM on Lifetime TV!

On display in the Rodale Galleries of the Baum School of Art, Allentown PA, the exhibit opens Feb 9, 2012 & there's a cocktail party to meet some of the designers on Feb 25th.

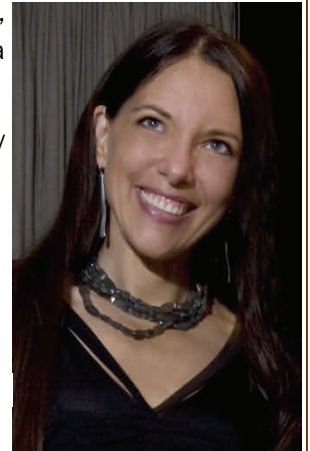
Eric & Pamela have had a few conversations recently; stay tuned as there may be some collaborations coming in 2012!

For exhibit info, see Pamela's blog

<http://www.strive2inspire.com/>

or email: [ptakhanna@aol.com](mailto:ptakhanna@aol.com)

Wear your life brilliantly! - Pamela Ptak



### 2012 WILL WE SURVIVE?

*"The End of Days, Scheduled for 2012 ... keep your towel close ... if it happens before the next newsletter, it's been fun and thanks for all the fish!" - Eric*

We have a really cool redwood slice, if we have time we may make a table!

8 slabs of 375 year old white oak have gotta turn into furniture.

We're almost done with a solid walnut gaming table; a REALLLLLLY unique piece!

Lots of restorations wrapping up early in 2012.

Oh, and we're going to announce some events for 2012 very soon!



Artisans Uses [Waterlox Products](#)  
The Finest Tung Oil Varnish

Our studio hours are by appointment. Please call ahead!

Office Address: 60 Bakun Way Ewing, NJ 08638

Shop Address: 103 Corrine Drive Pennington, NJ 08534

Office: 609-637-0450 Shop: 609-737-7170 Fax: 609-637-0452 Cell: 609-658-2955

Email: [woodworkers@artisansofthevalley.com](mailto:woodworkers@artisansofthevalley.com)

[www.artisansofthevalley.com](http://www.artisansofthevalley.com)