

ARTISANS OF THE VALLEY



Bob Eigenrauch

Chainsaw Carver



Artisans of the Valley is a unique custom furniture, antique restoration, and carving studio that offers an eclectic array of original works and museum quality conservation services. Launched in 1973 by Master Craftsman Stanley D. Saperstein, Artisans transitioned to his son Eric M. Saperstein along with the title of Master Craftsman.

Stanley has taken on several students and a few apprenticeships over the years, lasting from a few sessions to several years. Stan and Eric met Bob Eigenrauch in the late 1980's when he joined the Central Jersey Wood Carvers Club. Bob was in the tree service business and wanted to learn basic carving techniques. Given the vast store of wood he had access to and the knowledge he wouldn't be able to climb forever this was a logical plan to build a skill for his retirement. Stan invited him to his shop at Artisans of the Valley, and got him started.

Bob's primary goal was to become a chain saw carver, but of course Stanley brought him back to the basics of whittling and sculptural form. It wasn't long before Bob got anxious to fire up a carving saw and started bringing early attempts around to the shop for critiquing. Over several years, Stanley watched him slowly improve by practice, and through taking anatomy courses in both the human figure and wild life forms. Bob quickly joined the ranks of accomplished chainsaw carvers, and continued to practice and improve his skills.

Schedules being what they are, Stanley and Bob lost contact for almost 15 years, until sometime towards the end of 2005 when not a half mile from Artisans shop (Stanley's home) Stan took note of line of chain saw carvings chained together on the roadside in front of another local tree service. Each time he passed by, Stan thought to himself, "I have to stop and give them a close look."



103 Corrine Drive Pennington, NJ 08534 609-637-0450

website: www.artisansofthevalley.com email: woodworkers@artisansofthevalley.com

Please Call Ahead! Our studio is open by appointment only.

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HAND CRAFTED CUSTOM WOODWORKING

Well three months went by before Stan finally stopped to inspect the carvings. Along side the sculptures he found a coffee can by the carvings side filled with business cards, low and behold it was an old friend, Bob Eigenrauch. Stanley isn't easily impressed, but it was quite obvious Bob was an accomplished professional, a Master Chainsaw Carver. These five roadside examples turned out to be the mere tip of an extensive and diverse portfolio.

Stan contacted Bob, letting him know what excellent work he was doing. The two caught up, and by that time Bob was already enjoying retirement from the tree climbing business and became a full time carver. Bob dropped by Artisan's shop, along with his portfolio of over one hundred fine examples of his work.

When Bob expressed a desire to find new methods to promote his carvings, Stan invited him to collaborate with Artisans as a specialist carver. Bob's unique style and ability to produce consistent quality in artistic sculpture in scale and life size presentations using the power of a chainsaw and a box of detailing equipment will bring a new dimension to Artisans style of carving and sculpture.

It was then that life came to the classic full circle, and the student returned to become the teacher. Stanley with his newly purchased echo carver's saw in hand began to absorb the years of tricks and techniques Bob had developed to efficiently create his artwork. Stanley put his new carving saw to work, and the excuse to pickup additional toys was taken seriously; angle grinders, mini-grinders, and other new tools were soon floating around the shop.

One of the first collaborations is this life size toy soldier, based upon the 1903 Victor Herbert operetta, "Babes in Toyland" clearly one of Laurel and Hardy's most popular films. This commission is a life size rendition of the toy soldiers portrayed in this classic film. This commission required the combined efforts of Bob Eigenrauch and Stan Saperstein to create a figure from kiln dried poplar for indoor display. The ruff work was completed by Bob, creating a full size blank. Stan picked up the process to carve in the detail using both power carvings and hand carving techniques.



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Collaboration remains consistent with this life size timber wolf developed as a school mascot; he'll stand guard at the main entrance of Timberlane Jr. High School greeting students and representing school spirit. Indoor sculptures are carved from poplar blanks, using kiln dried lumber to reduce the risk of cracks common to the green lumber used for outdoor sculptures. Bob (middle) carves the blank while Stan (right) puts in the detail.



Yes, of course, there are bears. We wouldn't want to disappoint everyone by excluding these furry beasts, but we should make it clear that Bob takes the art of chainsaw carving far from just the average bear. Bob's rendition of Yogi's family are well dressed, out salmon fishing, or perhaps seen holding the mailbox or a honey pot, these creatures devote their day to bringing artistic humor anywhere they are posted.

Sizes range from small wandering cubs to full life size grizzly bears. A great accent to a any indoor or outdoor scheme.



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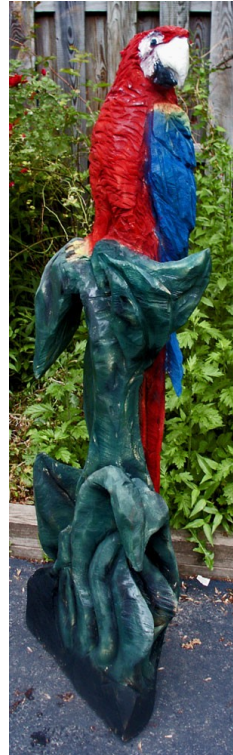
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Eagles, owls, parrots, toucans, cranes, hawks, and even pelicans all reflect a realism that inspires the expectation of flight. The overlapping detail of feather layers defined within each wing, the facial features to the talons all in living color. Bird sculpture isn't just for the Audubon Society; it works great for bars, decks, poolside, or just a colorful creature to fill a corner in your living room.



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Carving figures takes chainsaw carvings well beyond the typical; these are life size, life like caricatures. Nautical, Native American, mythical, sports themes, or simply a boy sitting on a log. Oh, and you may have noticed a well endowed mermaid, Bob can carve those too. Imagination and reality combine and these figures take on their own life. All carvings can be finished natural or fully detailed in lifelike color.



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Sea life and amphibians, both realistic and fantasy can be represented in life size to oversize. Dolphins, frogs, and seahorses are just the tip of the iceberg. Flipping to a more domestic venue, dogs, cats, horses, and even calves can all be represented in wood.



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We're due for another summer style feature, so here's "Tiki Time!" by [Master Chainsaw Carver Bob Eigenrauch](#), "Tiki Time!" Take time out to enjoy a little colorful artwork, have a few drinks served in coconuts, and lounge out by a Tiki bar with Jimmy Buffet strumming away in the background. That said, logic dictates we must blend a few [tropical birds](#) into this tropical paradise.

Chainsaw carvings are not limited to the common [bears](#), [frogs](#), & [gnomes](#). Artists like Bob can carve a raw log into an array of creatures in natural or full color formats. These creations provide the perfect accent to your outdoor bar, kitchen, deck, or pool area. Other than that, not much we can say, the photos make our point!



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Artisans is now featuring a full gallery of chainsaw carvings, featuring Bob Eigenrauch as the primary artist, with a little contribution from Stanley every now and then for some hand details. Galleries include Figures, Wildlife, Fish, Horses, Birds, Totems & Tikis, Signs, and Mailboxes. Artisans will be accepting commissions on behalf of Bob for carvings similar to those shown in our galleries, as well as unique and original commissions.



[Artisans of the Valley](#) offers museum quality period reproductions, original designs by commission, and antique restoration/conservation services, hand carving, modern furniture refinishing, onsite furniture repair, hand made walking sticks, and educational programs. Our website is now over 225 pages, including galleries, feature articles, and educational sections, company background, and our new adventure album section. We extend an open invitation to explore our site, and 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

[Stanley D. Saperstein](#), Master Craftsmen, Author, & Historian founded Artisans of the Valley in 1973. Stanley offers historic presentations, impressions, and various lecture series ranging from 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



Our studio hours are by appointment. Please call ahead!

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