

CARVING OUT A SAFARI

When the time comes to commemorate your passions there are a variety of ways to immortalize them into an heirloom. Some people decide to commission a portrait, others take photographs, people write songs, and tell stories. Then there are some the find that carving or sculpture is more suitable to their mindset. This piece is a "Safari Chest," a solid cherry locker featuring hand forged custom black iron hinges, designed to not only house the prized possessions of its master, but to itself provide a venue of memories, conversation, and mystique.

This particular commission required us to portray the favorite game of a lifelong hunter and outdoorsman, these included the whitetail deer, the elk, and the bear. Thus, we developed three panoramic scenes portraying each of these great beasts in their natural habitat.

Commissions of this kind require us as artists to impart the skills of analyzing our client's personality, pattern development, furniture design, joinery, carving, finishing, wood burning, and tinting. These pieces demand creativity, and once we have been engaged and define our initial working parameters the artistic freedom takes charge once the commission gains momentum.

The patterns are a composite consisting of extracts from Lora S. Irish, and original sketches by Stanley & Eric Saperstein of Artisans of the Valley. The scenes are complete with primary foreground creatures, background plots, plant life, horizons, and transitional features to define depth and perspective.

All carving is completed by hand with a relief depth up to 1/2". Detail features such as fur, leaves, grass, bark, ripples, and shadows are highlighted using a wood burning pen.

The chest is tinted using acrylic washes, sealed using shellac, and finished in a hand rubbed tung oil varnish. The use of color and contrast in our pieces develop a unique visual array where the features of each scene become realistic with all sorts of obvious and hidden details.

This chest is a a portfolio class commission, created and hand signed by Master Craftsmen Stanley & Eric Saperstein, January of 2007.



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Visit www.carvingpatterns.com for carving patterns by Lora S. Irish

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