

Phil Abernethy

I've had an ongoing interest in blacksmithing and mixed media sculptural work for many years. Work to date has included numerous items ranging from indoor and outdoor garden sculptures, lamps, mirrors, vases, bowls, gates, showers in various media. I work primarily in forged steel which has the amazing ability to be worked to almost thread like dimension, allowing great scope for experimentation and interpretation. Lately I've focused on figurative sculpture and geometric arrangements of cut and welded media.

Ideas often start with a sketch of the basic arrangement, at other times pieces comes together from no particular plan as often the process seems to take on a life of its' own. Regardless, the best work emerges having a feeling of inherent rightness or personality.

I try to keep the arrangements, movement and finishes of the work simple. In doing so I hope that the focus is drawn to the arrangement, act or movement conveyed and the ability of the medium to facilitate that.

Finishes are generally heat colored with an open flame, which produces a subtle array of colors and a finish unique to each piece.

I'm self taught, coming to forge via my first craft, traditional clockmaking, where I would often make missing components for early English clocks during their restoration. That beginning coupled with a strong urge to express my ideas means I now spend much of my time devoted to studio forge work.

My aspiration is to develop my artistic identity through these forms and continue to explore the possibilities of the medium and finishes.

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments about my work.

I live and work between Richmond Hill and Parry Sound, Ontario.

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