

Hot Off the Crucible:

There's nothing like a warm, late winter to make a fisherman yearn for the sound of rushing water and the feel of a rod and reel in his hands. In answer to the siren call of the river, Mark Hopkins has added three new fishermen to his collection of sporting work. **Boulder Creek, South Fork, and Rainbow at Mossy Rock** will all thrill a fisherman's heart, as they portray both the peace and the excitement of a day on the river. These anglers are very low editions of 25 each.

Mark has also completed several more works for his collection of western characters. Famous gunman **Buffalo Bill** is poised with his gun ready for action. In **A Friendly Wager**, a steely-eyed gambler is ready to lighten your pockets. A friendly bartender — **On the House** — would be happy to quench your thirst at the local



On the House



Buffalo Bill



A Friendly Wager

Winter's Carol

Spring Perch



saloon. Whatever your vision of the quintessential western personality, he can also be found in Mark Hopkins' imagination.

Three breathtaking new works highlighting the beauty of seasons are ready to grace the homes

of America. **Spring Perch** is an enchanting chickadee balanced delicately on a slender reed. In summer you might catch a glimpse of a beautiful **Blue Dasher** dragonfly. **Winter's Carol** is a chickadee boasting the colors of the season. Go to our facebook page to suggest a name for an Autumn piece to complete this set.

An entire family of dogs has been molded and cast in bronze, and are finding a warm reception everywhere. Thus far, Mark has created a Bulldog, a French Bulldog, two Great Danes, a Labrador Retriever, a Pug and a Yorkie. What a fun collection of some of the most adored of man's best friends. These canines, limited to an edition of 50 each, can be named by their owner. Collected separately, they are pictured here together.



Best friends

Highlights

With the desire to create a Veterans' Memorial for his Eagle Scout project, a remarkable young man named Adam selected a grassy area outside the local library and got to work on fundraising. In 2008 he put Mark's sculpture, **Vigilance**, on layaway and took donations for the shipping costs and the stone base. Adam then worked hard for two years to: gain approval from authorities, excavate the landscape for installation, and plan and conduct the ceremony himself. The result is a beautiful memorial in Trafalgar, Indiana, to all who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. The plaque on the base ends with a quote by Mark, "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance. It is true for the wild creatures of the earth, and the nation that holds dear its liberty. With sharp eyes and uncompromising principles, each must protect its own from those who would plunder and destroy."

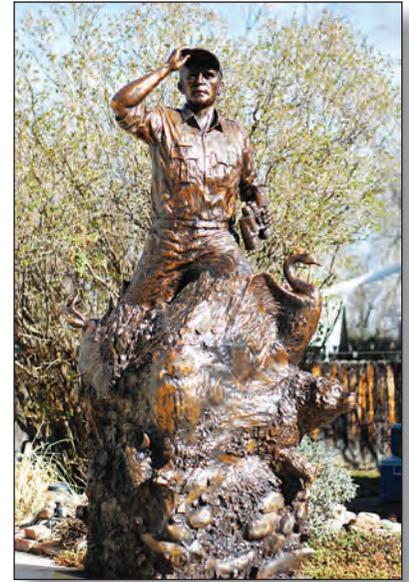


Mark's talent for sculpting monuments has currently earned him a place on the short list for a memorial project for fallen officers for the Denver Sheriff's Office, to be installed in front of the Denver County Jail.

Mark's creative skills have also been noted by the Walden Woods Project. This organization is dedicated to the preservation of the serenity and beauty of the beloved retreat of Henry David Thoreau. They have commissioned Mark to create an award sculpture that they will present annually to a deserving individual who has helped to maintain and safeguard the beauty of the earth. The first annual Global Environmental Leader Award will be presented in July of this year, in Boston, MA, to a well-known political figure.

Eli Hopkins' has completed his monument entitled **Fallen Comrades** in honor of rangers who have given their lives in the line of duty for the US Fish & Wildlife

Service. It has been cast and received final approval from US Fish & Wildlife officials last month who visited Colorado to personally view the piece. The unveiling of this beautiful tribute will be held in May in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Eli sought Mark's counsel throughout the process, and appreciated his father's assistance and guidance. We will share photos of the unveiling in our next newsletter.



Fallen Comrades

Mark's newest fisherman was displayed at a recent event, and visitors were invited to offer suggestions for a title. The contest was also opened to collectors who subscribe to our e-mail updates, as well as our friends on facebook. Lively enthusiasm yielded hundreds of creative ideas to choose from. The winning title was **Rainbow at Mossy Rock**, named



Rainbow at Mossy Rock

by Mr. Kirk Anderegg. Thanks Kirk! To sign up for e-mail updates, send us a note at hopkinsbronze@gmail.com or visit our facebook page Mark Hopkins Sculpture.

Please look for some exciting changes in our web site in the coming months. We are working on making it even easier and more fun to access and use!

In the Works

Mark continues to work on some exciting new marine life, including a blue marlin and a sailfish. It has been a number of years since Mark created any sea pieces, so it should be an interesting project for him. His **Dolphins, Sea Turtle, and Sea Lions**, were collector favorites for many years, while the stunning **Sea Maiden** and **Sea Dance** thrilled with their more fanciful vision of life in the water. We look forward to seeing what comes next!

Artist's Corner

A Question of Balance

Frequent inquiries from collectors prompted Mark to comment on how he manages to achieve balance in his sculpture. With so many of his works designed with a relatively thin connection, many stand wondering how something so heavy can appear to float.

Mark's first thought centered on the "why" of this question. He said, "I love the challenge of it. Coming up with the concept of a piece is the hardest work, but it's also the most interesting. If I can create something that appears to be suspended in air, that makes it even more fun for me.

"I think it also makes the work more interesting. It gives a sense of movement and anticipation. A person who is just standing there looks balanced – but not very interesting. But if you take a photo of that person running, you see that in the middle of his stride he doesn't appear balanced. And that image is much more interesting. It draws you in, and makes you feel the sense of running. I try to achieve the same thing in my work, which pulls you into what's happening in the art.

"So much of sculpture seems very earth-bound and heavy. I like my work to rise above the earth, so to speak, and have more light and air. Bronze is strong enough to do that, so why not take advantage of the material?"

"As to the "how" of it, sometimes it's a mystery, even to me. After many years of doing it, it has become almost second nature – a sort of intuitive engineering. Maybe it's like a chef in the kitchen – he can't always remember why he added an ingredient to a certain dish. He just sensed that he needed a certain flavor to make the dish more interesting, so he added it.

"I often strive to eliminate anything unnecessary or distracting to the work – using only that which



contributes something clear and important. Sometimes that means leaving out a substantial visual part of my subject. That requires me to be sure the work is mechanically balanced – so it won't fall over. Fortunately I do much of my work in wax, which is strong enough that I don't need an external support system. I can work in real balance, and know in advance that the work will also balance in bronze. In either material, the center of gravity is the same.

"From that point, I am free to be very creative, and change my mind about where I want to position part of the work. As long as I am constantly aware of the physical center of balance, it works – and I achieve visual balance and beauty, as well.

"There are many philosophical applications of this idea, too. Achieving balance in our personal lives requires a lot of practice, but once we gain an intuitive ability, we can keep things in balance there, too – eliminating that which is unnecessary or distracting, and keeping that which contributes toward beauty and meaning."



Blue Dasher

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Mark Hoglund'.

2012 Spring and Summer Events

**14th Annual Downtown
Denver Arts Festival**
500 16th Street
Denver, Colorado
May 25-28th

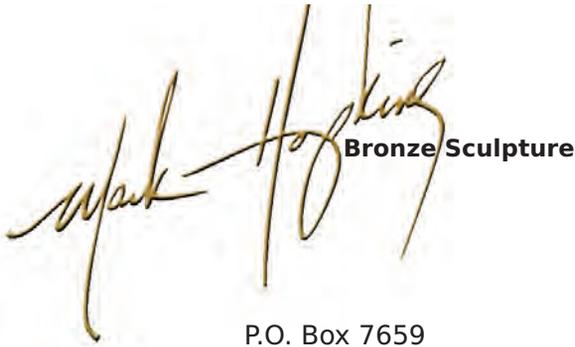
**Old West Show and
Auction**
Denver Merchandise Mart
Denver, Colorado
June 22-24th

**Windsor Fine Arts
Festival**
Boardwalk Park
Windsor, Colorado
July 27-29th

**Loveland Sculpture
Invitational Show and Sale**
920 29th Street
Loveland, Colorado
August 10-12

See our website and Facebook page or join our email list.





Bronze Sculpture

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www.markhopkinssculpture.com

Our mission is to create an enduring legacy of beauty and excellence in bronze to enhance the lives of those who will own a Mark Hopkins Sculpture.

Through the daily work of our hands, we will share the eternal nobility of our hearts and minds.

From the diversity of our individual talents and strengths, we will forge a great unity of purpose and achieve unlimited success and prosperity.

Editors: Laurie Hopkins, Jenay Hopkins
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*Looking for a hard to find or sold out Mark Hopkins work?
Call or e-mail us at hopkinsbronze@gmail.com
and put us to work.*

You never know what we might be able to find for you.

From our Collectors

One of the most interesting and rewarding aspects of hearing from our collectors is to read their interpretations of Mark's work and what it means to them, personally. Often, their feelings reflect much of what Mark intended his piece to say. One collector, named Robb, said this about Mark's **Good Trade**:

"I just have to tell you how much I enjoy my sculpture 'Good Trade.' It captures a moment in time when the Indian culture was in its prime, but with the introduction of the white man's culture, and his technology (all symbolized by the gun), things change irrevocably. Their world and way of life, are swallowed up by the waves of settlers spreading across the land, until their true ways become all but extinct. The sculpture exudes the joy and exuberance, and wild nature of "Indian-ness," and makes the irony of the situation very poignant. Using partial pieces of the horse and person also create the impression that an explosion, or alteration in the space/time continuum, has happened. At least that is what speaks to me in this piece ... please thank Mark, for me, for bringing Good Trade to life."



Good Trade