

Mark Hopkins

BRONZEWORKS

A MARK HOPKINS SCULPTURE SEMI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

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Hot Off the Crucible



Festive Friends

Wonderful creatures are dominating our fall lineup. Two sculptures are poised to join Mark's flock of darling miniature birds called the Little Birdies Collection. Two friendly little chickadees,

called *Festive Friends*, have landed amid bright holly leaves and berries, cuddling close to keep each other warm. These would make a perfect Christmas gift, so place your order by Nov. 1st for Christmas delivery. If you place your order by the deadline you will also receive 10 blank holiday note cards (and envelopes) with these cuties printed on the front. *Aspen Cutie* features a sweet little chickadee perched on an aspen branch arrayed in glorious autumn gold.

The Lion and the Lamb is Mark's gorgeous new tribute to hope. With the current media full of so much rancor and violence, perhaps we can all pause to consider our



Aspen Cutie

own contribution to the world's harmony. Whether in our thoughts, words, or actions, most of us can afford to be a little more kind, a little more patient, a little more tolerant. Each of us can make a difference. As Mark sculpted his recent commission of a lion, he envisioned how adding a sweet lamb could create this beautiful symbol of peace.



The Lion and the Lamb

Highlights

Time has flown by in a whirlwind for us at Mark Hopkins Sculpture, just like so many of Mark's stunning birds. In the year 2018 we will celebrate 30 years in business! We have come up with some fun ideas to commemorate this milestone:

We have an amazing group of collectors who have been acquiring Mark's work over the last 30 years. To honor them, we are starting a new section of the newsletter. We will introduce some of Mark's most ardent fans in upcoming issues, with photos of some of their displays and their own thoughts about Mark's work. We will call them our Super Collectors. To be featured as one of our Super Collectors, email Laurie at hopkinsbronze@gmail.com. Check out the story of Super Collector Chris in this issue of BronzeWorks.

Our next idea is a new sculpture that will only be available to order in the year 2018 - an "Annual" edition, indicating one year of production. We have not offered an Annual edition for a long while. If you have a piece with an "A" under the edition number, it is one of this select group of sculptures. Earlier Annual editions include Survival, Natural Harmony, and Phantoms of the Forest. Mark hasn't decided the subject of this Annual edition so if you have any 30th anniversary sculpture ideas, give us a shout.

Looking for a hard-to-find or sold-out Mark Hopkins piece? Call or email us at hopkinsbronze@gmail.com and put us to work. You never know what we might be able to find for you.

 Like "Mark Hopkins Sculpture" on Facebook for sneak peeks at new pieces and behind-the-scenes glimpses into Mark's process.

Mark's most recent commission was a really fun project. A loving lady named Nanette from New Jersey asked Mark to create a lion as a birthday gift for the great man in her life. She sent us pictures, along with this note:

"Joseph's Big Birthday was absolutely SPECTACULAR and thank you for making it a very happy one!!! When the time came to open his final present, it was like an unveiling at a museum! He couldn't believe his eyes when he saw the Lion... He LOVES *My Lion King* and our guests were so impressed... tell Mark he's now a 'Star' in New York City, New Jersey, and in Pennsylvania!!!



"Joseph is now so proud to own this lion, and he is also so proud to know that *My Lion King*...is a one-of-a-kind masterpiece sculpted by the 'Great Master' himself, Mark Hopkins!!! Please tell Mark he did an outstanding job making this very special bronze lion... and that he is a truly talented and skilled sculptor!!!"

Currently, Mark is working on a memorial portrait of Kathie, the generous woman for whom Kathie's Spring Garden is dedicated at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley. The museum staff has already installed several of Mark's life-size children at the museum. They are anxiously looking forward to the portrait of Kathie to welcome visitors to this gorgeous showplace.



Face to Face



Friends in High Places

From Our Collectors

Many of our collectors find Mark's work to be the perfect gift for the special people in their lives. One sweet lady sent a funny story about giving two of Mark's birds to her daughters,

"The girls opened them up and loved them. (Each) ended up with (the bird) I wanted the other one to have...ergo the identical boxes....The funny part was that (the girls) then went into a discussion about how both of them wanted the other one.....The outcome.... they did get exactly what I wanted them to have...couldn't have scripted this better!"



Super Collectors

Over the last 29 years, Mark's artwork has inspired many collectors, some of whom have dozens of his sculptures.

One collector, Chris, told us about how he came to own 32 Mark Hopkins bronzes. He said, "I can't go into any room



Fishin' Hole in Chris' living room, surrounded by numerous Mark Hopkins works

without having a Hopkins influence in the room." When asked about how he began his collection he responded, "All my guests are greeted at the front door with a life-size *Fishin' Hole*. It is a great conversation starter and an amazing piece. Strangely enough it was also my first piece... I would go every year and sit and admire this piece in [a gallery.] I would never miss an opportunity to stop in and see it. After two years of this, and I am sure the dealer getting tired of me sitting in his showroom and not purchasing anything, I finally decided to pull the trigger and bought it. I have never looked back or regretted it even after moving the 640 pound sculpture twice now."

Chris' collection is widely varied from children to wildlife and religious pieces, and includes work by Mark's son, Eli. The sculptures are on every shelf and table throughout his home and Chris remarked, "I am lucky my wife appreciates the art as well as I do, her favorite piece being *Sons and Brothers*," a now retired Civil War sculpture.

Chris told us that when he wakes up each morning the first thing he sees is Eli Hopkins' piece, *Creature Comforts*, and that it brings an instant smile to his face.

Over the years Chris has also donated many sculptures to local charities for auctions and promoted Mark's work in

his personal circles. "I turned my friend, Craig, on to the artwork and now he has more pieces than I do." He joked, "That's okay though; it takes him longer to dust."

What motivates someone to collect artwork? For Chris, it is the heart that goes into each of Mark's and Eli's sculptures: something visible that touches the invisible spirit within.

What motivates you to collect artwork? Let us know by commenting on our Facebook page, Mark Hopkins Sculpture.



Creature Comforts



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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.

Artist's Corner

As he thought about our past 30 years in business, Mark contemplated how events in both his personal life and the world have played a part in the evolution of his work. He said, "I had a commission to sculpt a life-size little boy, but we couldn't find a decent foundry to cast it. So, with a lot more faith than wisdom or experience, we went into business in 1988, and opened our own bronze foundry. We paid a steep price in blood, sweat, and tears, but we learned a lot and managed to create a great company.

"We've been through a huge range of ups and downs in the last 30 years: wild fluctuations in the economy, wars and tragedies - just a lot of really tough world events. Some of those times were incredibly difficult to get through. The thing that kept me going when times were hard was a deep conviction that this work was what I was supposed to be doing - my calling in life. It has become a challenge at times to create art that can inspire and lift the human spirit - a challenge that I have learned to embrace and love."



Benjamin

WWW.MARKHOPKINSSCULPTURE.COM

BronzeWorks welcomes your suggestions and articles.
Editors: Laurie Hopkins & Jenay Hopkins

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