

Jack Harrington – About this work and a little about me

I have always been driven to accomplish things. Sometimes it was my job as an engineer. Often it is painting (watercolor) or drawing (pen and ink) or a hobby (furniture making) or a sport (tennis). Every path has one consistent destination...I have to create! My sculptures are created from castoffs...the crumbs and scraps of chaos, ruin or neglect. They are formed in pieces from a broken engine or an abandoned vehicle or scrapped device. Each sculpture cobbled together with salvaged



refugees from a future in the garbage can or the scrap bin to live again in some unlikely new way. I can't help but here the metallic sighs of relief as a part is chosen from my storehouse of scraps to find its new home not as it was originally designed but maybe as it was more truly meant to be. I see the beauty in a piece of metal formed by man to fulfill his industrial purpose and used by man until it no longer seems to have purpose. It is still an amazing creation of man. It just needs a new purpose.

And that is what I do. I have to find the individual part that inspires purpose and add to it all of the other bits and pieces that create something satisfying and wonderful. Scraps and cast-offs whose previous life still shows in the rust and the scratches and dents and gouges on their surface. My challenge is to bring all of these oddities together in a visual and tactile harmony that never loses the identity of the elements that make it up while lifting on a pedestal what has been created.

Each sculpture begins with one unique scrap. Its shape, surface, weight, color, feel or other intangible characteristic calling for attention. Still these scraps must sit under the work table until its future potential can be seen. Then it's time to get to work. Carefully (sometimes) gathering other parts that may play a role. For me, the process is almost purely additive...the next part is always driven by its relationship to the next... very linear. Oh, and if a part isn't working it is quickly cut or ground away and put aside for a different future. Most of my work uses mechanical parts from the 1940's forward...usually mixed in age.

Characteristics of my work: Almost entirely material that has already served its original purpose; not precise but "feels" right in proportion; not "realistic" but still believable; parts of various age but ageless in the final result; very different and incompatible elements combined to feel common together.

My influences: Amazing pieces and parts...sad to see them thrown away. I can see something else in these. And I have been influenced by two amazing artists. Wyatt Waters is my friend of many years and I have seen him consistently and diligently pursue the art that he loves every day with strength and determination and positive attitude in spite of the adversities that he has faced as many of us have. The other is Carroll Case who has let me see value in the work that I am doing through his eyes...eyes that have experience and skill and talent vastly beyond mine.

My thanks: Thank you to my wife Teresa and daughter Emma who are both so important to me... I love you both. Thank you to my brothers Mac and Joey who helped me when I needed it and gave me the place to do this.