

ARTIST+

Q&A

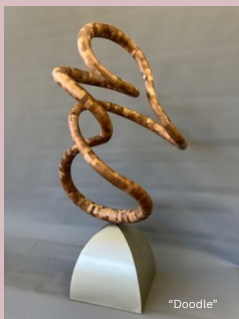


Mark Knize

Getting to Know Local Artist Mark Knize

BACKGROUND

Mark became a full-time artist following a career as a research scientist. He works primarily in wood, as well as in clay, metal, and concrete. Making simple curves and round objects has been a decades-long interest, producing curvaceous geometric forms. His work has been accepted in - and won awards in - juried art shows in California and nationally.



"Doodle"

ARTIST Q & A

EDITOR: What first inspired you to study wood carving and sculpture?

KNIZE: I started making "sculptures", specifically model airplanes for competitions, as a teenager. It was then that I learned to cut, sand, and paint wood. I have taken numerous classes in drawing and sculpture over the last few decades.



"Remembering Ruth"

EDITOR: Do you have a particular mentor or artist whom you greatly appreciate?

KNIZE: I really like Ruth Asawa, a very productive artist from the Bay Area who did wonderful woven-wire hanging sculptures. I even tried to make something like hers in wood. (See photo Remembering Ruth)

EDITOR: Which type of wood do you prefer to create with and why?

KNIZE: I like "Wood I already have on hand." I've been accumulating wood for decades and am happy to be using some up. Really, the project and its form are more important to me than the exact type of wood.

EDITOR: What other types of media have you created with, and what is your favorite other than wood?

KNIZE: I've used lots of other media; I've even done ice sculptures. I like clay and have done several realistic portraits.

EDITOR: What is the craziest or most unusual piece of art you have ever created?

KNIZE: I made a 9 ft tall bust of a young Clint Eastwood, inspired by a visit to Mt. Rushmore (See photo Installation-Clint).



"Clint"

EDITOR: Do you offer classes on wood carving/sculpting?

KNIZE: No. I have demonstrated woodturning on a lathe numerous times at my local woodworking club that meets in Modesto.

EDITOR: Can we promote any upcoming shows or gallery openings for you?

KNIZE: My woodworking club, the Tolumne River Woodworkers Association, is having their annual show in September at the McHenry Museum in Modesto.



"Mid Century Bowls"

EDITOR: What city do you live in, and can you tell us a little about your spouse and children, if any?

KNIZE: I've lived in Tracy since 1976 and am married to fellow artist Gayle Knize, and have two daughters.

ARTIST STATEMENT

"I enjoy trying to achieve the perfect form, and with a beautiful material, like wood. I try to make something I haven't seen before, and I hope to create objects that engage the viewer. I see my work functioning as a key visual point within a room, inviting a look and a touch."



"Sphere"

Mark sells his work in galleries, online, in art shows, and privately. He was published in articles in American Woodturner magazine in 2010, 2012, and 2016.

