

LARRY RINGGOLD

Artistic goal

I gather select pieces of driftwood from the beaches of the Chesapeake watershed. The driftwood is joined together to form figures from the natural and mythical worlds emphasizing life and attitude, while highlighting the beauty of the wood. Focus is not only on the anatomy of the figure but also the various contrasting textures of the driftwood.

Experience

42 years- woodworking and cabinetmaking
6 years- theatrical design and construction
33 years – industrial arts and carpentry teacher
lives and works on shores of the Chesapeake Bay

Education

BA in Art- St. Mary's College
Univ. Md
Chico State Univ.
Northern Va. Community College

Awards and Acknowledgements

- Best in Show 2015 Neptune Festival Va. Bch.
- I Judges Choice 2016 Ocean City Arts Alive
- 2nd place Flag Ponds Artscape
- 2nd place Sunshine Arts Festival North Beach
- Sand Dollar Award Boardwalk Art Show Va. Bch.
- Eco Arts Award 2012

Galleries

Zenith Gallery

I have been a Carpentry/Woodworking Teacher and woodworker for over 42 years. The driftwood thing is a recent endeavor that was made convenient by hurricanes and the opening of the Conowingo Dam. Due to the massive flooding, great amounts of all types of wood drifted down to the Maryland beaches. I have always found driftwood art fascinating and now I have plenty to pick from. I saw my first driftwood sculptures in California in the 70's and since then found others online doing magnificent work such as Deborah Butterfield, Matt Torrens and Heather Jansch. I have found their work inspiring but different from my own in design and construction. I've spent many hours walking the beaches on the Chesapeake Bay collecting



driftwood. The pieces I have created range from dinosaurs to horses, elks to mythical Hippocampus's. The sculptures are constructed of all types of wood but usually the legs will be locust or oak. Pieces are assembled using rust resistant screws that are counter sunk and filled. The wood is selected for effect and design to create creatures that are realistic and inspirational. They will be treated with at least four coats of a wood preservative to prevent rot. I suggest one should place the feet on a concrete or synthetic surface and retreat with a sealer every couple of years. If properly cared for they should last for many years, unless of course you have beaver issues!

