



Bill Ooms

Turned Wood and Sculptures

Studio of Bill Ooms
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Wood is a unique medium for an artist -- it was once a living thing of beauty. A wood artist has the opportunity to transform the wood into something different that will continue to have beauty long after the tree has died, and will last for generations to come.

Much of the wood is gathered from local tree removal services or from storm damaged trees. Some wood is obtained from other wood workers in various parts of the country or purchased from wood suppliers who can certify that no endangered species are used. All wood is kiln dried to insure stability.

The lathe is used as a carving tool. The shaping is done with hand-held chisels. The goal is to create curves and shapes which are pleasing to touch as well as pleasant to see. No shape duplicators are used at any time in the process – each piece is unique. All work is done completely by the artist, from the rough cutting of the wood, the drying process, the shaping and hollowing, and the sanding and finishing. Most pieces are finished using an oil finish to preserve the warm feel of the wood.

Artist Biography:

Bill was raised on a farm south of Chicago. Wood has always been a part of Bill's life. As a second generation wood-turner, he learned basic woodworking techniques from his father. Even as a young man, his desire was to envision and create new things. This led him to his first career in engineering, and now he has returned to his roots as a full time woodworker.

Much of Bill's early wood work was turning hollow vases inspired by the pottery of Native Americans in the Southwest. Now, he is combining his wood-turning skills with his math and engineering background to create unique wood sculptures. Most of his creations start with the aid of 3D computer simulation. This enables him to view the sculpture from all directions prior to beginning the actual construction of the piece.

Bill and his wife, Pam, have their home and studio in the country north of Prescott overlooking the Williamson Valley.