



Bill Ooms

Art in Wood

Studio of Bill Ooms

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Wood is a unique medium for an artist -- it was once a living tree. 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.

The lathe is used as a carving tool. The over-all 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.

Decoration often involves more complex machinery in the form of an ornamental lathe. The artist determines the patterns and the location of each cut. Each piece is a unique combination of the natural wood and the touch of the artist's tools.

All work is done completely by the artist, from the selection of the wood, the drying process, the shaping and hollowing, decoration, silversmithing, and final finishing. Most pieces are finished using an oil finish and/or natural waxes to preserve the warm feel of the wood.

Some 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.

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 in 2002 he 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. Later, he combined his wood-turning skills with his math and engineering background to create unique wood sculptures. Most recently, Bill has designed and built a complex and unique ornamental lathe to create highly decorated objects of wood art.

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