

A Black Bear Pair bench - see how it's done, and finished photo of the gorilla sculpture

# Jeffrey Cooper

*Art furnishings for artful living*

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## October 21, 2016 Spirit Bear Bench and Gorilla Sculpture

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### First, about the Fine Furniture Show in Pawtucket RI November 4 to 6

If you are in driving distance of Rhode Island, I recommend you come to see it. Lots of great artists besides myself. This will be my first time exhibiting there, and I hope to see you. This is just one of several pieces I will be showing.

Pawtucket Armory Arts Center  
Friday 4 to 8 PM Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM  
Sunday 10 AM to 5 PM

For the show's website: [click here](#)

[Link to Additional Resource](#)



### Spirit Bear Pair

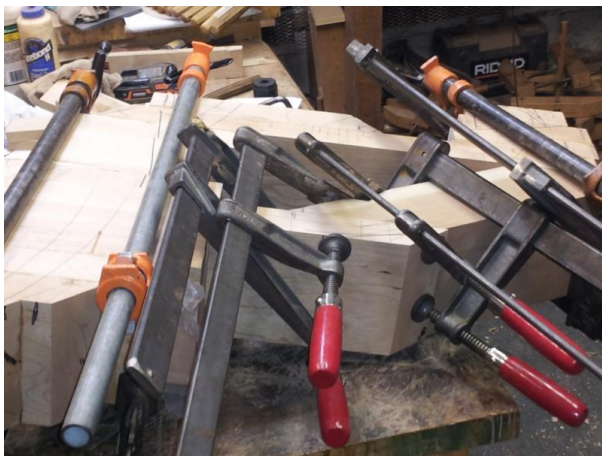
I am currently working on a commission for a Black Bear Pair bench. I have made several of these benches and each one come out different just by the nature of the carving process. This one will be the natural cherry color rather than tinted which makes it a Spirit Bear bench because they are more tawny than other bears. Here is a photo-essay of work in progress.



Rough milled lumber with the cardboard template in the background



The pieces have been final milled, cut to match the template and are in my press making the stack lamination



One part of the neck is at an angle to the other blocking pieces and has mortise and tenon joinery. This photo shows that assembly in clamps



I use a router and a guide to make the mortises where the legs will be tenoned into the main body, which is the stack lamination shown above.



I carve the feet and legs before gluing them into the body, otherwise I wouldn't have access to inside surfaces.



Here is the whole bench, legs in place and a forest of clamps adding the bench top layer.



And here it is after I have shaped the body using first a chainsaw, then a bench grinder, then mallet and gouges. All the surfaces still need to be reworked to the final surfaces. The heads and faces are carved last.

[Link to Additional Resource](#)

## Madonna with Gorillas

For those of you who have seen my last newsletter with the gorilla sculpture from the log left on my porch, here is the photo of the finished piece. If you haven't seen it, and would like to see the work in progress photos of this sculpture go to the How It's Made section of my website - [Click here](#) then click the icon for the August 2016



## That's it for now.

Next newsletter I'll have finished photos of the Spirit Bear Bench and will be starting on a king sized "Spider Bed." If you read my chairman's letter in the last Furniture Masters catalogue, that's the design that had me tossing and turning. The design is done now, and it's the next project I'll be tackling.

**[Jeffrey](#)**

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