

# Jeffrey Cooper

*Art furnishings for artful living*

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## **A sculpture, it's not furniture; and the Furniture Masters upcoming events**

### **August 2016**

**Dear Jeffrey,**

Many people have encouraged me to break out from the constraints of furniture and function with straight sculpture.

Well, I'm doing it, photos below.

First I want to be sure you know about my upcoming schedule. These are Furniture Masters events:

- This Sunday, August 21 at 5:30 the annual pop up event at Castle in the Clouds, Moultonborough, NH. I'll be showing my side table *Rencontres en St Paul de Vence*.
- The fall exhibition this year is at 3S Artspace in Portsmouth from September 12 to 25. The Main Event is the closing day when the exhibiting Masters will be on hand with our work from 1 to 5 PM with a silent auction of smaller pieces, followed by a live auction of about ten pieces, then Dinner with the Masters (\$50 ticket for dinner) With this new format you can stay for the auction even if you choose not to stay for dinner. New this year we will offer vacation packages as a fundraiser for the organization. Great deals.
- September 12, Monday, we will host an event of interest to both artists and collectors of art, "Value your Artwork" with four speakers
- September 19 also Monday, we will host an event "Prison to Productivity" two programs training prisoners with real life skills, with guest speaker Stefany Shaheen.

I will forward the official flyers when they are ready.

For those of you further south, I will be at the Fine Furniture show in Pawtucket, RI November 2 to 4. More on that next newsletter

Now for the progress on the sculpture I mentioned.

### **Inspired by Sagrada Familia**

Quite some time ago I returned home to find a large hunk of wood on my doorstep. It was cherry, and seemed to be a cutting from a split trunk tree because it had a rippled surface on one side, bark on the other, about 30 inches tall and I could barely lift it. Someone must have seen my Ants Totem,



which had been made from an odd cutoff from a walnut tree, also rescued from the firewood pile. I managed to get it to my shop and set it aside, periodically weighing it until it stabilized at 82 pounds.



### **The inspiration**

A few years ago on a visit to La Sagrada Familia church in Barcelona I noticed a sculpture of a family of chickens on one of the turrets. Interesting. And I have an interest in rain forest preservation and endangered species. And an interest in Madonna artistry because of the parallels between the

narratives surrounding Moses and Jesus. Thus, staring at the hunk of cherry for all those months, I envisioned how I could find a mother and baby gorilla within it. Rain forest, endangered species, holy family.

### **Not wanting to screw up**

Carving the block was a one time shot, so I started by making a styrofoam replica to practice on. So here are some photos of the piece as it has progressed, with the practice piece alongside it.



Upcoming, I have commissions for the fall for another black bear bench, and a bed with head and footboard carvings to commemorate to a story about a spider and a duck.

**Keep in touch and you can follow along.**

**Jeffrey**

### **Quick Links...**

[to visit my Website](#)

[for more about the Fine Furnishings show in November](#)

[for more about the NH Furniture Masters](#)

[to send me an email](#)

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