

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, December 2020

# Jeffrey Cooper

*Art furnishings for artful living*

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## Holidays 2020

**Benchasaurus 4, 3 Graces finished  
starting a chest of drawers for woolens, and a new horse chair  
and a barbecue table in progress**

Happy Holidays to all. A busy month with Hanukah, Solstice Christmas and New Years, hoping that 2021 will be a year rebounding from the difficult one we are closing out. Below you'll see Three Graces Benchasaurus 4 finished, and a couple new pieces just starting out.

First some news from the NH Furniture Masters.

- The Furniture Masters current exhibit is up at the Concord Chamber of Commerce, but this time is also posted in a 3D virtual tour with links to see more info about each piece with an accompanying video of each Master describing that piece. Entering the new era! You can see it [\[click here\]](#) I have the Benchasaurus and 3 Graces in the video. To see how to purchase works by the Masters [\[click here\]](#)
- Congratulations to David Lamb for winning the prestigious Cartouche Award for his amazing body of work. He certainly is one of my inspirations.

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## Benchsaurus 4

This sculptural work is one of many using wood and stone, this one carved as a fantasy creature. Starting with the stone I built a stand for it, then improvised as I carved, using my imagination. I could be useful as a table, a seat or a plant stand, and it's outdoor suitable as it's made from locust and epoxy glue for weather resistance. You can also see it on the Mattaport video mentioned above.

[Link to Additional Resources](#)

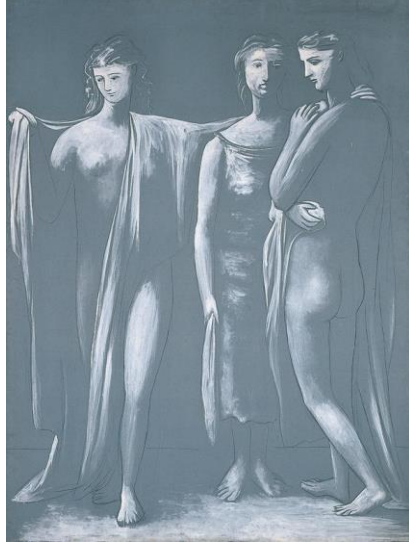


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## Three Graces

I've always been a fan of Picasso, so when I was in Malaga Spain I went to see the Picasso Museum. That's where I encountered his 1923 painting Three Graces. It's a popular Renaissance theme. I noticed right away that in his version the standing women were on in profile, one face view, and one  $\frac{3}{4}$  view of the face. I knew that in his cubist work he was fascinated by the juxtaposition of these poses, and that this was an earlier work. I was immediately inspired to do an interpretation, and here it is. The woods are black locust, pearwood and walnut. I see the three figures as each having a different disposition, one sort of demure, one fully clothed, and the one on the left more bold, yet distant from the others. Taken together they make up onethr multifaceted whole, like all of us, and like Picasso's later cubist figures.





This is the Picasso painting that inspired the sculpture



and this is the rear view of the sculpture. Picasso didn't have to worry about that, but I did.

### A Barbecue Table

The project below, three photos, is of an outdoor table for a barbecue pit at the same property as the Spider Bedroom set. I began by shopping for stones at a stoneyard and going from there. Carvings on the table will commemorate their son proposing to his bride to be, an event that took place by a long abandoned fire pit that now has a small tree growing out of it. The front leg, middle photo, will be carved as the fire pit, and we are still deciding how to depict the event. There's a good bit of improvisation in a project like this.



I made a scale model of the stone and made three scale models of how I might design the table. This photo is of the model they liked, and the final design is a variation of it.



There is a wooden barrier all around the stone to and legs with carvings below. Here the parts are fit together without glue and I'm still deciding how to arrange the legs to support a lower level.



Here the frame around the stone is assembled, the glue blocks cut off and the surfaces attended to. I had to do some stone carving to the underside to make it nestle into the frame nicely.

## Some upcoming projects



At the Providence Furniture Show I took an order for an animal chair - a horse to be made of walnut. These chairs all start with a basic design that is modified for the animal in mind. Since it I have no more 'blanks' in stock and it's walnut rather than the usual birch, I'm making a batch of six blanks, and here they are in progress, parts stacked.



I also have upcoming a project which is a small chest of drawers specifically to old woolens, hats gloves and scarves. Thus it will be made with lots of aromatic cedar, combined with birch framing. It will have some decorative carvings reflecting the winter theme. Here again is the wood parts roughed out and stacked.

**That's it for now.**



**Wishing everyone a happy and healthy 2021**

*Jeffrey*

