



TOPICS OF INTEREST

ASK GEORGE...

Sculptor with a Smile

Where do your ideas come from?

I'm inspired by a blend of human faces and figures and nature, similar to the themes in children's books. I like making gentle and lighthearted forms that have a kind of innocence. A lot of my themes come from medieval carvings and from folk art that is both whimsical and emotional. My favorite pieces personify a quality of calm and serenity.

Were you always interested in sculpting?

I must have been because my mother recently showed me a dog I carved from a bar of soap at age 7. I studied art in high school, and my brother, who noticed my talent, encouraged me to enroll in art school in the '70s.

What inspired you to pursue sculpting?

Weary of the "disposable art" of advertising, I became a freelance illustrator. While looking for work, I toured American Greetings, saw the sculpture studio and was intrigued by it. Hired to work in that department, I found I enjoyed sculpting more than two-dimensional drawing. After several years, I began to get bored by fashioning the same characters over and over for mass production. So I began carving my own subjects on my own time. Today, my favorite thing is to begin sculpting after dinner and work until about 3 a.m. I'm really kind of a hermit.

What is your favorite piece?

The Garden Smile plaque. I like faces a lot and it makes people smile. I wanted to combine nature and people to make a gentle and friendly piece for the garden.

How long does an average piece take to create?

It usually takes about a week to finish a design.

On average, how many pieces does Carruth Studio make each year?

We produce around 126,600 per year.

Is there anything else you'd like to say about sculpting?

I feel extremely fortunate to do what I love and not only make a living, but also share this joy with people who purchase my designs.