



GEORGE CARRUTH

American Sculptor



When asked what part of themselves they put into their work, most artists probably answer “my heart and soul”. Indeed, sculptor George Carruth does. However, to that he also adds the “smile” on his face when he first decided to become a stone carver. And today there’s no doubt it’s an enduring smile – just like the medium in which George works.

“I’m very fortunate. I’m doing the work I love the most, and after so many years, it’s still so exciting that I can’t imagine doing anything more rewarding.”

George carves Indiana limestone with handmade chisels to create the prototypes for the cement and bronze hand-cast pieces that Carruth Studio, Inc. manufactures in a renovated century-old farmer’s market in Waterville, Ohio.

“Both my family and surroundings inspire my work – especially Deb, whose intuition, imagination, and savvy is responsible for the extraordinary growth of our casting business.”

Medieval sculpture and American folk art influence George’s work. Once “planted” in your garden or placed in your home his pieces bring feelings of whimsy and joy to their surroundings. That’s why over



3500 fine shops, galleries and mail order catalogs feature Carruth Studio’s creations.

“I demand a lot of myself. My pieces keep evolving. I seldom work with sketches. That way naïve images can emerge spontaneously. Each stone that I carve has a story to tell, and when it does, I feel myself becoming a part of it – becoming one with nature.”

In 1983 George carved a niche for himself in the art world. His first significant exhibit was at Cleveland’s renowned Garden Center. Since then, his original pieces in limestone, sandstone and alabaster have garnered major awards in juried shows. Moreover, until recently his carvings were the only ones by a living American stone carver to be displayed in the National Cathedral. In 1993, George accepted Hillary Rodham Clinton’s invitation to create an angel for the nation’s official Christmas tree.

“When I received my BFA from the Columbus College of Art and Design, I went into advertising and later worked for American Greetings Corp. But the first time I tried carving a stone, something indescribable touched me. It felt like a homecoming, and every time I go to the pile of stones behind my studio and one picks me, it feels that way all over again.”

