

Wood Carving *Jozsa*

In Hungary people do not have money, television, etc. and sit around nights with nothing to do, so they carve. In the old days in a combat, they would use clubs carved with designs on the handles because a blow would really smart. When they buried the bodies, they would stick the staff in the dirt as a grave marker. About 200 years ago, religious symbolism was placed on them. The top would be a star, then the church steeple, then the X which is the Greek letter for Christ. Below would be a flower design for the eucharist and the host for the blessed sacrament.

The art of relief carving is to use angle cuts rather than deep straight cuts. The art is in removing minimal wood while appearing to be quite deep.

Red cedar resin reacts with metal and dulls blades.

Parting tool and dye brush for coloring while steaming the wood.

The first test of how good your art is the answer to the question, "Would you want to take this home if it were free?" The reward is when you can see that people are moved by your work.

Legend: The man on the horse had seven daughters. He was put in jail. The youngest daughter who loved him so much dressed as a man and begged that they let him go and she would stay in jail for him.

Of the global population, 80% of the people have no freedom.

In Loveland, Colorado, the fairy godmother came down from the sky and touched a naked statue of a man and woman and said, you are alive for 3 or 4 hours and can do whatever you want. They looked at each other and said, "Let's go for a walk in the woods." They went behind a bush and there was a wonderful moaning. After a while they came out with a wonderful, satisfied look on their faces. The fairy godmother said, "you still have a couple more hours. Surely you can think of something." So, the woman looked at the man and said, "OK, let's go back, but this time you hold the pigeon and I'll shit on it."

A couple met a fairy godmother and granted each of them one wish. The wife wished for a year's vacation with her husband, and whoosh! They had a wonderful time. When the year was up it was the man's turn. "I wish that my female partner was 30 years young." And whoosh! He turned 96.

Aniline dyes last, whereas natural stains do not last. Aniline stains are chemically man-made. Stains barely penetrate side grain. They penetrate through the ends of the wood.

The nice thing about water falls in landscapes is that the white noise cuts out all the traffic sounds. Another source of white noise is the radio not on a station.

Bass wood is called "Holy wood" by the Germans because they make church items out of them. Bass wood is stable and does not warp.

When he was in Camloops at a restaurant, the lady asked "smoking or non-smoking". He answered, "non-smoking. I'm a pimp." (He meant wimp.)

In 1957 the place was barren. Now the bass trees are big. Also called linden trees, native to eastern Canada & US & eastern Europe. Wonderful fragrance, and the flower at its peak bloom makes a nice tee.

Pure aluminum oxide is a man-made ceramic sharpening stone, and is one of the hardest elements there is. Strop with a leather strop. His dad would take off his leather belt, tie it on a door handle, spit on it and strop his knives.

To test how sharp your knife is, bend your fingers, rest the knife on your fingernail. If it doesn't slide off, it's sharp.

Before carving, soak the wood in water. When wet, the wood is half as strong. Soak it on both sides it won't warp.

He never cuts himself when he carves because he keeps both hands on the wood.

CARVING

Always cut into the solid wood, not into the weak wood.

Cut along the grain, not against the grain.

By cutting away from the ridge you can maintain the sharp edge.

Once you have carved, don't do any sanding because you will take away from the shape.

All of carving is nothing more than removing little triangles.

Always draw on the wood the design before carving.

Carve at least ten or fifteen minutes every day or you have to start over.

If he were on a desert island, the second thing he would want with him on the island beside his thirty year younger partner would be his fishtail gouge.

Take your time. Don't be in a hurry.

Make sure you have good sharp knives and good wood.

SHARPENING

TRANSFERRING DESIGNS

Laquer thinner will dissolve the ink onto the wood.