



# inFORM

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Lately it seems that communication is becoming ever more compressed. Constantly, I'm being told that if I want to be hip and young and with it (too late), I need to MySpace, Facebook and twitter, not to mention having unlimited text messaging on my Blackberry. I'm told this is the wave of the future in education and now in the arts.

Perhaps I just don't get it. But as communication becomes ever more rapid and condensed, it also seems to me to be more and more senseless. The young people I instruct in communications and business are wired to the world 24/7. They can tell you all of the latest scores, who's playing what venue and where their "friends" are currently drinking, as well as what. They can tell you what corner they're standing on without looking at the signs and whether the sun is out without casting their gaze towards the sky.

Yet often as not, they can't describe a process for thinking through a complex problem, nor the origins of World War II (or any other war) nor name a country in Africa. They live in the here and now, their thoughts shrunken by the limited language of instant messaging. Orwell predicted this. He told us that the shrinking of the language would eventually turn us in subservient beings without the ability, much less the will, for independent thought or rebellion. Where Orwell had it wrong was the source. He wouldn't have believed that mankind would cheerfully march forward towards ignorance in a quest to be hip and cool.

Now I'm told I must twitter, following the 140 word postings of the famous and not-so-famous and, perhaps, building my own group of followers who stand poised to receive my latest narcissistic musings. Life is too short.

Having spent some time looking over the devolution of the language that is Twitter, I am proposing a bold new next step in digital communications: Grunt. Grunt will be the final evolutionary step in taking our language back to the poetic simplicity of our Neanderthal forebears. Grunt will be a new social networking phenomena in which users can chose from a rich palette of coos, groans, primal screams and, of course, deep moans of sexual contentment. Users will now be able to communicate the essence of their moods and emotions to their "friends" instantly and with a simplicity unknown since the distracting emergence of writing and the printing press. This full fidelity social phenom will, needless to say, be fully supported through advertising.



What has this to do with art and sculpture? Nothing, except that words too are an expression of the artistic mind and reading stretches our imagination and sparks a depth of understanding and interest that cannot be easily duplicated through other communication forms. We should not part lightly with the richness that is the world of words.

## Happenings

- 📍 9th Street Gallery – Ongoing - 217 SW 9th Street, Newport, OR 97365
- 📍 Pearl District Dental – Ongoing – 1211 NW Glisan St., Portland. Gallery space open to the public.

## Work

I've been experiencing the joy of bronze casting lately through a course just finished at Portland Community College. I've enjoyed the process of forming and working wax figures in preparation for eventual casting. The work is quiet, contemplative, and allows for the exploration of form that is entirely different from the grinding, flaming, sparking and pounding of my usual studio experience.



Back in my studio, I've been working on my new Bare Bones Bells series. After years of creating elaborate bell compositions (which come with an elaborate price tag) I have started a small series of simpler bells priced for the times. Parting with complex stands, these bells are simply mounted using hand-forged hardware. The bells themselves still employ the surfacing and finishing techniques that make my bells both unique and beautiful.

I have been additionally playing with employing my copper quilt techniques to create tables. The Copper Quilts series uses random rectangles of copper, colored with acid-based patinas to create wall-mounted abstract compositions. My new experiment uses a door as the substrate to which the copper is mounted. The whole composition is then edged, covered in glass and mounted as a table. I think it's cool.

## Available

**T**he following signed works are currently available from the studio.

- Circle – a six foot totem in steel, copper and wood
- Zen Bell #2 – 2009
- Bare Bones Bell #1 – 2009 (see above picture)
- The Ring of Saturn – Stainless steel garden gong



You can see more work at my website [www.philsederstudios.com](http://www.philsederstudios.com)

## Best Single Thing...

**T**hat I've experienced lately is 'To Sir, With Love' the 1967 movie starring Sidney Poitier in which he plays a black school teacher in a very tough British school.