

inFORM

A Quarterly Publication of Phil Seder Studios & Design - Winter 2009

Well, well, well...I'm back. After my long hiatus, I am back to the publication of my quarterly newsletter. What happened (admit it, you're dying to know)? Was I suffering from a debilitating disease? On a top secret assignment for the CIA? Helping Hank Paulson with his economic rescue plans? No, nothing so glamorous. In fact, in late 2007 I decided to update my website and decided to hold off on my newsletter until said update was done. That simple update turned into an 18 month nightmare which is only just now ending.

So here I am, new year, new president, new newsletter and new website. You can check the website out at www.philsederstudios.com.

Happenings

- © Guardino Gallery – Juried Group Show – March 26th to April 28th - 2939 NE Alberta St., Portland, OR 97211
- © Coos Bay Museum – Group Show – March / April - Coos Bay, Oregon
- © 9th Street Gallery – Ongoing - 217 SW 9th Street, Newport, OR 97365

Work

2008 was a slow year for a number of reasons. My summer was disrupted (happily) by a long trip to Southern Africa and a subsequent trip to upstate New York. The inspiration that I should have found in my African journey was lacking and, frankly, the economy stunk. I decided to focus my late summer on one large quality piece rather than a series of smaller commercial pieces. The result was **Circle**, a seven-foot totem pole in wood steel and copper. This piece is an abstract of an abstract, loosely based on traditional Native American totem figures of eagle and fish. The combination of forged steel and beaten copper make this a truly unique work of art.





Over the past several months I have puzzled over what to do with a large copper ring and stainless steel disk left over from the commission work that I have subsequently used for my logo (see masthead above). Recently, I accidentally discovered that the disk makes a lovely sound when struck with a mallet. This inspired the creation of a new outdoor work *Ring of Saturn*. The disk is surfaced with patterns that catch the sun and project fascinating light reflection as the two disks spin in the wind.



Finally, you may be aware that my individually crafted bells are almost never available to the public. For several years, the three or four I produce each year are snapped up by a Portland-based private philanthropic foundation. I recently completed the latest bell in the Zen Series and, for no reason having to do with the artistic merit of the work, the foundation elected not to purchase at this time.



The bell was created using a recycled scuba tank which was stripped, then painstakingly hand ground to give it a vibrant swirling pattern. Addition of copper surfacing and patinas give it an “ancient bronze” stressed appearance. The stand combines steel uprights with a classic brass arch, the contrast between the metals providing a rich tonal visual variation. The bell itself is held in place by a simulated bamboo crosspiece of hand-worked steel. Needless to say, the tone of the bell is outstanding.

Best Single Thing...

That I’ve experienced lately is Tuscan Bean Soup. Sautee half an onion in olive oil until translucent. Add a can of great northern beans, two cloves peeled garlic, cut in half, a small sprig of rosemary, a bay leaf and a small grinding of white pepper. Salt to taste, simmer for 30 minutes and serve with a sprinkling of grated Parmesan and some homemade croutons. One of the simplest, yet most tasty soups imaginable.