

Meet Bryan T. Berenson, Old World Craftsman

From monuments in Washington, D.C. to cathedrals in Europe; from the statues at Lambeau Field or Miller Park, to Mount Rushmore; often wood or stone sculpture is considered the highest art form, meant to preserve and honor the memories of heroic or highly esteemed men and women. Consider now the sculptors; artists shaping or combining hard materials, such as stone, marble, metal, glass or wood to create memorable forms of public art.

One such patient and talented artist is Bryan Berenson of Hartland. Upon high school graduation, Bryan entered the US Army and later found work as a diesel mechanic. When he developed Reactive Arthritis, it became painful and difficult to continue his career. He enjoyed carving as a hobby and took a course on carving at a school in Austria. "I knew I found my calling," says Bryan, and he enrolled in a five-year wood and stone sculpting apprenticeship program at Geisler/Moroder Woodcarving School in Austria, studying under master sculptors and artists. Bryan passed the wood and stone sculptor's exam, certifying him as a wood and stone sculptor; a certification honored throughout Europe. To his knowledge, he is the only American ever to become certified.

Bryan now offers services such as wood carving, stone carving, restoration, gilding, painting, faux marbling and training. Bryan carves & restores statues and architectural carvings for

both churches and the public. His specialty is hand carving in the tradition of old world craftsmanship, including figural, ornamental and relief carvings. "My biggest inspiration has been the carvings in and around the homes, churches and museums throughout Europe. I get a lot of inspiration whenever I carve alongside other sculptors in Europe. They have so much talent and I always come away with many new ideas and a deeper respect for the art of sculpting out of the raw materials wood & stone," relates Bryan.

Bryan recently spent a month carving marble in Carrara, Italy, right alongside many other wonderful sculptors, each having their own unique style. "That was an experience that definitely helped me grow in my stone carving endeavors," says Bryan. He also displays his talents at German Fest and other local art shows. Between 1999 and 2006, the years in which judged shows were held by Badger State Carvers, Inc., Bryan, won "best of show" and many 1st and 2nd place ribbons.

Having his own business for the past seven years allows Bryan the freedom to set his own work hours, which makes all the difference due to his medical condition. As for sculpting for a living, Bryan reveals that he enjoys having a direct relationship with his customers. "Quite often a customer is not sure of exactly how they want the finished carving to look, but they have some ideas. I listen carefully to their



ideas, then share some of my own ideas about the design. Once the design & estimate is approved I carve the design. It really helps me custom design each carving and produce a unique product that often becomes a family heirloom," states Bryan. "I especially enjoy seeing my customers' faces when they receive the carving they ordered. There is something magical about that moment!"

Bryan and his wife Jennifer have lived in Hartland for three years. They moved here because of the proximity to both of their families and enjoy their quiet neighborhood. Their son, Dylan, 6, takes piano lessons at Hartland Music and plays tee ball through the Sussex Recreation Dept. His favorite subjects are math and science. When Bryan isn't sculpting he enjoys figural drawing, painting and cheering for the Green Bay Packers.

For more information on Bryan T. Berenson, Sculptor, LLC, a brief overview of Bryan's talent and creativity can be found on his website, www.tbtsculptor.com or call 262-538-0659.

