

Don Justin Meserve
Sculptor

Don Justin Meserve explores narrative and abstract themes in a variety of media. His work reflects a love of the sculptural process, a “hands-on” approach and technical skills informed by an American industrial design education combined with European craft training. After four decades of working as an artist, he has developed a formidable mastery of materials, particularly those associated with traditional sculpture: wood, metal and stone. Although Don’s recent sculpture emphasizes abstract and natural forms, he also produces figurative and narrative works cast in bronze and pewter.

Early in his career as a designer in the United States and Denmark, Don invented functional forms for everyday objects. The **“Spirit of the Machine”** series alludes to these early designs but gives them an entirely new life and meaning. Working out of a studio in Round Pond Village on the Maine coast exposes Don to marine themes and natural imagery which surface in his sculpture. **“The Sea”** series refers to maritime lore, boat building and fishing. When he carved side-by-side with Japanese and Maori artists during international symposia, Don gained new appreciation for the universal appeal of ships as mythological symbols and metaphors for the journey of life. Just as his proximity to the sea reinforces rhythmic curvilinear forms – fins, sails, waves – denizens of woods and fields inspire his **“Creatures”** series.

Don graduated from the University of Bridgeport where he received a degree in industrial design and completed graduate studies at the Royal Academy of Art in Copenhagen. In the 1960s, European architecture firms hired designers as generalists and expected them to move fluidly between disparate assignments, solving problems as they arose. When on staff at Bernadotte and Bjorn, one of Denmark’s largest firms, Don designed architectural details, furniture, glassware and jewelry commissions for Prince Bernadotte, among other projects.

After returning to the United States, Don taught for over a decade while building his sculpture practice. A professor for several years at Rhode Island School of Design, he was instrumental in establishing a graduate program in furniture design. He has also served as a visiting lecturer at Parsons School of Design, Pratt Institute and College of Creative Studies in Detroit. Don has participated in several international sculpture symposia, using his skills as a teacher and mentor to engage people in the artistic process.

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“Don Justin Meserve’s work demonstrates his careful respect for the history and practice of sculpture. He is also an accomplished craftsman, often called upon to do intricate stonework for architectural restorations...”

- *Maine Sunday Telegram*

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“Unlike in painting, the list of serious sculptors in Maine is short indeed. Don Justin Meserve has a firm place on it. His current stone sculptures have the characteristic of all good sculpture, a sense of mass. His figures have an inherent contrast between an almost transitory image and the texture and weight of stone.”

- *Portland Press Herald*

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Collections and Commissions

Environmental Protection Agency, Washington DC
First Bank of Damariscotta, ME
Hamill private collection, Yarmouth ME
Lincoln Home monument, Damariscotta ME
Marist College, Poughkeepsie NY
Museum of Biblical Art, New York NY
Nicoletta private collection, Newport RI
Penney/Gould private collection, New York NY
St. Matthew's Church, Hastings-on-Hudson NY
Time Warner Building, New York NY
United Nations Development Corporation, New York NY

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One-Person and Group Exhibitions

Trinity Museum, New York NY (2007)
Tremaine Gallery, Hotchkiss School, Lakeville CT (2007)
Gleason Fine Art, Boothbay Harbor ME (1995-2007)
James Graham & Sons, New York NY (2004-2006)
Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport ME (2005)
Center for Furniture Craftsmanship, Camden ME (2005)
Maine Sculptors, Maine Art Gallery, Wiscasset ME (2004)
Te Kupenga Symposium, New Zealand (2004)
RTCA, Damariscotta ME (2003)
American Bible Society Gallery, New York NY (1999)
Granary Gallery, West Tisbury MA (1998)
National Cathedral, Washington DC (1997)
Tremaine Gallery, Hotchkiss School, Lakeville CT (1997)
Field Gallery, West Tisbury MA (1996)
Art of the Spirit, Pax Christi Festival, Portland ME (1995)
St. Luke's Cathedral, Portland ME (1993)
The Interchurch Center, New York NY (1993)
St. Xavier University Gallery, Chicago IL (1992)
Citicorp Center for the Arts, New York NY (1988)
Arts Center, St. Peter's Church, New York NY (1987)
Marist College, Poughkeepsie NY (1980)
Mid-Hudson Art Center, Poughkeepsie NY (1979)
Peter Spielhagen Gallery, New York NY (1978-1981)
Hudson River Museum, Yonkers NY (1977)
Ward-Nasse Gallery, New York NY (1976)
Southern Connecticut Arts Federation, Sharon CT (1972)
Spectrum Gallery, Dennis MA (1971)
Rhode Island School of Design, Providence RI (1970)
Heritage Gallery, Southbury CT (1970)
Carr Gallery, Providence RI (1969)
Fall River National Show, Fall River MA (1969)
Rhode Island Art Association, Providence RI (1968)
Sabe Gallery, Essex CT (1967)
Scandinavian American Foundation, Denmark (1966)
Danish Art Fair, Copenhagen, Denmark (1965)

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Awards, Symposia, Teaching

Invited Artist, International Stone Sculpture Symposium, Schoodic ME (2007)
Invited Artist, International Wood Sculpture Symposium, RTCA, ME (2005)
Invited Artist, International Sculpture Symposium, New Zealand (2004)
Visiting Artist, College for Creative Studies, Detroit MI (2001-02)
AIA Honor Award, International Forum on Religion, Art & Architecture (1991)
Visiting Artist, University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA (1996)
Professor, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence RI (1968-1971)
Fall River National Sculpture Award (1969)
Scandinavian-American Fellowship (1964)

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Education

Royal Academy, Graduate Design Studies, Copenhagen Denmark (1966)
University of Bridgeport, B.S. Industrial Design, Bridgeport CT (1964)
United States Army Ordnance School, Aberdeen MD (1958)

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Contact

Don Justin Meserve Studio

may be contacted directly regarding:

- Special commissions for private or public spaces
- Art for sacred space
- Art and antiquity restoration
- Independent study in direct stone carving
- Visiting lectures/workshops

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Sculptor
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