

## PETER FALK



It was in Indiana where Peter Falk realized he not only a carpenter but also a wood artist. “In my life, my training, location, relationships, and the native materials I use, my story has centered in Indiana,” he said.

As a youngster, Peter enjoyed the outdoors and working with wood. “My earliest memories are at the workbench with my brother, carving dugout canoes for our GI Joes,” he said. His woodworking skills grew under his dad’s tutelage, and they developed further through Indiana 4-H.

At a conference in Massachusetts, Peter met an historical carpenter near Boston, “who asked me to work for him, which I did for more than five years. I also met the master carver/wood sculptor Dimitrios Klitsas, and through his mentorship, I began designing and sculpting with hand tools,” he said. While studying with Dimitrios, Peter continued to be drawn to rural settings, calling them “the place where I am most at home and where my inspiration thrives.”

While pushed to higher levels of skills in Boston, Peter reflects that “I also realized that my personality was geared for the rural setting. I returned to Indiana where I am combining the standard of culture, art and beauty in my woodworking.” From his rural Carroll County studio, Peter draws upon the landscape and native material for inspiration and raw materials. Through his relationship with tree owners and sawyers, he focuses solely on native trees for his furniture and artwork.

“While a painter uses oils and pigments to create a picture, as a wood artist I ‘paint’ with wood,” Peter explains. “In designing my work, I combine and harmonize the appropriate and complementary wood grains and colors within the structure of the final piece.” After selecting the wood, Peter is “very deliberate” about making the individual pieces he cuts match and flow from one section to the next in the piece he’s creating. His work includes furniture, and lately children’s furniture. He also creates trivets, boxes, trays, and chests, in which he incorporates techniques including carving and marquetry.

Integrity is a primary quality in the way he works. “The structural integrity in my joinery creates pieces that are both aesthetically pleasing as well as structurally sound,” he said. That’s important to Peter because it enables a piece to be handed down to future generations.

“My art is inspired by the creation around me,” he said. “It might be a sunrise, plowed fields, ripples in water from a drop of rain. Sometime this is expressed in catching a moment in time in a flowering orchid, but it also can be geometric patterns and not a literal recreating of a scene.

Peter says, “My work comes from a rural county in the heart of Indiana. I am working in a rural community that is often thought of for its hogs and not its art. I am bringing a quality of work to Indiana and Carroll County that is fresh and unique.”

