

FOREVER READY

Forever Ready is based off my 30 years of experiences with and my love of the lab. The sculpture was created during the absence of a lab in my life, this was important, because I wanted to reflect on all the past labs, not a present companion. So, "Forever Ready" is that reflection of the breed (hunter, companion and teacher). For me the true impetus for this sculpture and appreciation of the breed probably lies in the last lab. He lived to 14 and was by far the worst hunter, but undoubtedly the greatest companion and teacher.

Capturing its intense nature with discipline and loyalty, I have set the lab on edge so intense, that if not given the command to go, it will just fall off. But, it is able to maintain balance—wet and ready to go again. The lab's shadow is cast in the water below, for I cannot think of a lab without water.

To suggest the breed's gunning history and its infectious connection within a family, square nails in the wood structure suggests the return to this platform over many decades.

**KEN NEWMAN
SCULPTURES**