

# KEN NEWMAN SCULPTURES

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## BIRDS IN ART MUSEUM TOUR

Mischief and Plunder was chosen from 832 entries submitted by 524 artists to the prestigious international Birds in Art exhibition at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau WI. It is one of 94 works selected by a jury comprised of; Geoff Fleming, Director of the Huntington Museum of Art in Huntington WV; Sam Gappmayer, Director of John Michael Kohler Art Center in Sheboygan WI and Emily Kapes, Art Collection Curator of Raymond James Financial in St. Petersburg FL.

This is Ken's fifth sculpture selected for Birds in Art, and the second time a sculpture has been purchased by the museum. We are honored to have Mischief and Plunder—Three Magpies join Composed, a Long-Billed Curlew in the [Leigh Yawkey Woodson Museum's permanent collection](#).

### Stamford Museum & Nature Center, Stamford, Connecticut

February 24 – May 28, 2018

### Cumming Nature Center, Rochester Museum & Science Center

Naples, New York June 16 – August 13, 2018

### Newington-Cropsey Foundation, Hastings-on-Hudson, New York

September 4 – October 26, 2018

### Las Cruces Museum of Art, Las Cruces, New Mexico

November 20, 2018 – January 14, 2019

## BREAKING NEWS

As most of you know for the past 18 years we have pursued a full-time artist's life and did not have a permanent home to return to at the end of the day.

Well, we are vagabonds no more. In February we purchased a house and property with out-buildings in Cambridge, Idaho. We are in the midst of settling in between shows. Watch for more details as the studio and shop progresses.

## 2018 ART SHOWS/FESTIVALS

### Ketchum Art Festival

July 13-15, 2018

Sun Valley, Idaho

### BAM ARTSFair

July 27-29, 2018

Bellevue WA

### Incline Village Art Festival

August 10-12, 2018

Preston Park, Incline Village NV

### Palo Alto Festival of the Arts

August 25-26, 2018

University Ave, Palo Alto, California

### Art in the Park—Boise

September 7-9, 2018

Julia Davis Park, Boise Idaho

### 48th Waterfowl Festival

November 9-11, 2018

Easton, Maryland



### Available

**Dam Pirouette**—Lodge Pole Pine Burl  
on Obsidian and Copper  
Award Winning Sculpture

## TAKING OF A SOUL

## PURE FREEDOM

This is the expression/posture of having no more to give. Being forced from a life of freedom and the destruction of your culture. What else can be taken? Even though you struggle to maintain a connection to your identity it becomes the past – the future is a better way, it is prosperity and the past is lost and then cleansed. Only survival will keep the culture and stories alive. The figure is stripped of regalia; No social status. No merits of bravery. Nothing of honor. Nothing of identity.



The posture maintains a sense of spirituality. His wrists are bound, although the lashes are such that they could be removed. His lashes are continuous- connecting him to Mother Earth, the creator and his culture, but he is now contained within a small box– the future – prosperity– reservation. Does he remain bound by his conviction?

The skulls below are all iconic and important symbols of the Native American culture; ancestors, buffalo, grizzly bear, wolf and eagle. Not until sculpting this piece did I see a larger picture. Each of these icons were driven to near extinction (the removal, relocation and elimination) to make way for the future – that better way. The cast off medal represents peace and friendship gifted by government representatives.

Even though this sculpture was inspired by the Native American's journey, it holds value and is a reflection for anyone struggling to maintain and preserve a connection to their past. By no means may it be comparable to the atrocities suffered by the Native Americans, but there is a heartfelt depth of loss.

We as Americans seem to do well at cleansing our immediate past by making it socially unacceptable.

**Taking of a Soul** is available in 1/3 Life (ed 22) and will be available as a monumental—at Life-1/4 (ed 5)

**CALL TODAY 208 337-8408!**

**Pure Freedom** is available in 1/4 Life (ed 22) (above) and 1/2 life (edition 11) in a variety of patinas; from traditional to contemporary.



One cannot think of the Plains and Mountain Indians of the West without the horse. They are woven into their life and identity. On one of our journeys, while traveling on a two lane highway across reservation land, we came over a rise and a young boy was riding bare back along the fence line at full gallop. This was a beautiful and amazing sight to see. The ease at which this boy rode as his horse charged forward, that image will stay with me forever.

What evolved was Pure Freedom, a sculpture that expresses; confidence, skill, trust, understanding, relationships, control and spirituality all wrapped up in an adolescent. The posture not just riding with no hands, his arms cast back, eyes closed—a confident—daredevil and a free spirit.

The horse – large Appaloosa, (no boy with confidence would pick a small horse), which the Nez Perce were noted for— a large body – Roman nose and rat tail. The horse is gelded to suggest the Nez Perce's selective breeding skills. Something that was not a common practice among the Native Americans. The horse is portrayed in a cantor – to express an ease, enjoyment of experience, a love of freedom, and a special bond. The geometric base supports the sculpture, but more importantly is a window to freedom, no hoof touching the ground.

One of the great elements of creating art is how happenstance can play such a critical role in bringing a sculpture to fruition. I was struggling with sculpting the young Native American boy. There were few historical photos found in my research. As happenstance would have it I met Shane and his son CJ, the perfect Nez Perce model.

The sculpture represents everything the Native American's fought and struggled not to lose or sacrifice; Simple and Pure Freedom.

## THE LAST WHISTLE THE REFLECTION OF A MILL TOWN

The Last Whistle honors the skilled and blue collar workers of America. Through their commitment to job and family they build the wealth of America and were the fabric of our society. My hope for this sculpture is that it is placed publicly in a corporate setting, public park and or museum for broad viewing and appreciation, rekindling memories and placing importance on an element of society not often honored. The one on the right #1/5 was installed at the Saginaw Art Museum in Saginaw MI, over Labor Day.

The inspiration for The Last Whistle is a narrative of my journey. I entered the high paying trades of the [logging industry](#) at 18 as a way to pay for college. Upon entry I possessed an arrogant and disrespectful attitude, thinking my path to college somehow elevated me above these men of few options. Then proceeded to obtain a real education rather quickly. The gentlemen “who broke me in” were in their 50’s and each and every day worked me into the dirt. But, for some reason they embraced me and had so much to share. They taught me to work smart with my body and mind, to do the best job possible and to own it and only then could I be proud of myself, incredible life lessons. Some of these gentlemen had left school at 14-15 to help support their families, limiting their option with no regrets. They made sure their children had options – college funds and one had a daughter in med-school. I came to understand that sometimes the apple doesn’t fall far from the tree.

So my inspiration (some 40 years later) is to show my undying respect and admiration for these men who gave me a real education. As a traveling artist, similar stories repeat themselves all across America, from small towns to urban cities.

With the loss of company towns and industries in America, the whistle is now quiet. This loss of the middle class is a driving force to have The Last Whistle set publicly to honor not an individual, but everyone who gets their hands dirty. I do not feel history books will capture the importance or beauty of these individual’s, but our collective memories will keep them alive, if shared. By honoring them in a piece of art, we elevate these workers for generations to come. Hopefully, filling their hearts with pride.



Shared Stories Keep History and Cultures Alive

These two walked up to The Last Whistle and the young boy took his sucker out of his mouth and said “Mommy, that guy is a monster”. His mom knelt down and said “No son, this is your great-grandfather.” She went on to tell the story of him working in the factories, carrying his thermos and lunch pail home everyday from work.

*This photo was taken while promoting the Last Whistle at [Artprize8](#) in Grand Rapids, Michigan.*

### Elements of The Last Whistle

**Stairs** – Industry, tapered steps suggest the loss of industry in America.

**Iconic Lunch Box** - Carried not just for nourishment, but notes from home and paychecks from the job.

**Stainless Steel Thermos** - Commitment and durability. They were expensive and one purchased it only if they were committed to their occupation. They were indestructible and lasted a lifetime, just like the individual.

**Physical Presence** – A mature blue collar worker with thick shoulders and strong hands, yet subtly struggles with the stairs. He has given it all to the job.

**Clothes**– Jacket is not just for warmth, but a sense of weight or burden on his shoulders. Starched and pressed pants represent pride in oneself and his job.

**Book in Pocket** – It can represent any book, it simply represents knowledge and self-fulfillment (Trade book, Novel, Bible, Newspaper, Stock Market, etc.). Most importantly, there is much more to this man than a strong back and hands.

There are other subtle elements hoping to simply rekindle that memories of a father, grandfather or one’s own life, honoring the everyday person as a hero. They may not feel singularly important, but as a group/culture they built America’s wealth—earning a good wage and creating the fabric of this society.

### ~ QUOTES ~

*Quality is never an accident, it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution, it represents the wise choice of many alternatives.*

~ WILLIAM A FOSTER

*Being a witness to the layers of nature can provide such an insight to unraveling the layers of a life’s journey and art - providing for that opportunity to share.*

~ KEN NEWMAN

## 2017 TRAVELS—SCULPTING ON THE ROAD CONTINUED

Sharing our journey is part of the narrative of an artist's life. Just before Labor Day in 2017 we headed on a trip of a lifetime (just like that trip to Italy in 2016). One filled with monumental events, family, museums tours, a museum exhibition opening, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota sunsets, hikes, lightning storms and rough waters.—here is the next installment. After visiting Ludington Michigan's, amazing collection of [public art](#) representing the town's historical and cultural timelines.

We stayed just south of Mackinaw Bridge with plans to rise early and get over the bridge before the thousands participated in their Labor Day race. We made it over the bridge during a lightening storm just before it was closed. Stopped at a quaint breakfast place in the UP and mapped our course to [Copper Harbor](#) on the Keweenaw Peninsula. It is a long beautiful trek with a lot of small tourist towns, which are bustling during the summer season. Stopped along the way to enjoy some of the local faire and lake views.

Arrived at the cousin's cabin just in time to enjoy the sunset and a walk around the town. Visited Fort Wilkins, an old army camp, the craftsmanship and the timbers of the cabins were amazing. Took in Hunter's Point, Eagle Harbor, several [lighthouses](#) and watched the charter boats come back from Isle Royale. If you ever want complete seclusion, try this trip in the fall—we have some rain and breezy weather—but you can beat watching the squalls come in off the lake by a fireplace. A couple days and we were on our way to check out a couple museums then onto Birds in Art, an international art exhibition at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau, Wisconsin.

A fellow sculptor recommended a side trip to the [Grohmann Museum](#) in Milwaukee. The museum is dedicated to the evolution of human work spanning over 400 years of history (17th-21st, mostly German and Dutch artists). Founded by Dr. Eckhart Grohmann a German immigrant and US businessman, his entire Man at Work art collection was donated to Milwaukee School of Engineering. Grohmann purchased and renovated an old brick car dealership and bank building adjacent to the school where all the works reside.

Next off to Wausau for five days of Birds in Art, at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum. Mischief and Plunder, the three magpies were selected for the exhibition. Check out the listing on the Birds in Art tour and if you are nearby it is an amazing exhibition of Bird Art and proud to have been chosen again for the exhibition. Before flying out of Minneapolis we were able to take in MMA, we enjoyed many works including the exhibition on The Art of the Horse. We stumbled upon an out of the way [Italian Restaurant](#) at a VFW Hall to end our whirlwind trip. The journey continues ~ Deb



Mischief and Plunder Exterior #4/11

### COLLECTOR'S COMMENTS—

~ You just don't know just how perfect "Focus" is me. Living a solitary life, I focus on the good that surrounds me.

~ Found the perfect piece, "Unity" reminds us of the Ying and Yang in our relationship. Without our differences, life would be boring.

~ On Native American sculptures.

I've been thinking much more on the photos and your narrative of "Taking of a Soul". Upon reflection, "Soul" is all about what we discussed for over two years. I asked you to do something that invokes Natives and their association with nature, wildlife, and the spiritual world they once lived in. I now fully appreciate that you went well beyond my request. You gave me exactly what I asked for and much more; you pushed the envelope. Never occurred to me you would give me wolves and other wildlife by using their skulls to achieve my vision! Brilliant.

My son scolded me later after touching Pure Freedom. I am sorry if that was wrong, but I wanted to feel the horses muscles and remember my time riding horses while young. Our response: Diane that is the best complement, by touching the work you only enhance the connection and appreciation of a work of art. Next time, try not to drip your ice cream on it. :)

We are always careful not to buy to many works by one artist, but for some reason we keep finding sculptures of yours we love.

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