

KEN NEWMAN SCULPTURES

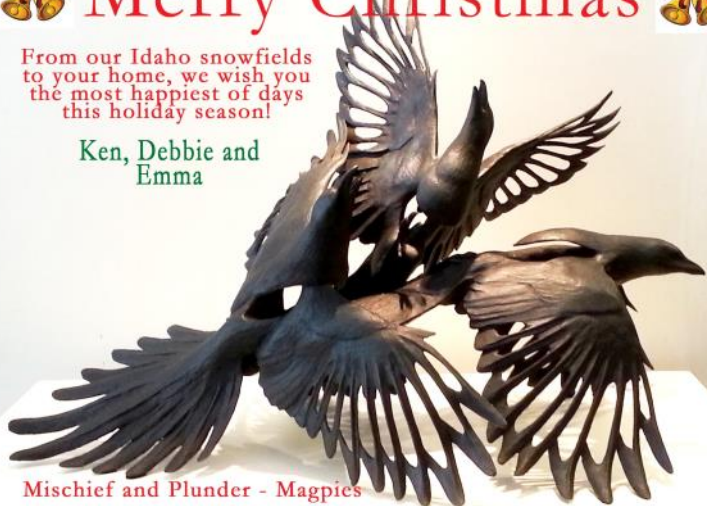
Issue 34
Winter 2017

NSS AAA SAA AA

Merry Christmas

From our Idaho snowfields
to your home, we wish you
the most happiest of days
this holiday season!

Ken, Debbie and
Emma



Mischief and Plunder - Magpies

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-Long-Billed Curlew in the [Leigh Yawkey Woodson Museum's permanent collection](#).

Chicago Academy of Sciences, Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

December 16, 2017 – February 4, 2018

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

2018 ART SHOWS/FESTIVALS

[14th Fountain Hills Fine Art and Wine Affaire](#)

March 23-25, 2018

Fountain Hills, Arizona

[16th International Indian Wells Arts Festival](#)

March 30-April 1, 2018

Indian Wells Tennis Gardens, California

[12th Annual Artscape Fine Art and Craft Fair](#)

April 28-29, 2018

Dallas Arboretum, Texas

[Ketchum Art Festival](#)

July 13-15, 2018

Sun Valley Idaho

[Palo Alto Festival of the Arts](#)

August 25-26, 2018

Palo Alto, California

[48th Waterfowl Festival](#)

November 9-11, 2018

Easton, Maryland

WEBSITE CALENDAR

Traveling across country for shows, requires preparing vehicles, oil change, tire rotations, bearings greased, etc.

First time in 20 years, we were forced to cancel a show. 150 miles out on a 2500 mile trip (one way) from Idaho to the Waterfowl Festival in Easton, Maryland. We experienced electrical issues and limped into a Ford Dealership in central Idaho. Four days later the truck was ready, apparently it fixed itself on November 7, too late to make it across the US to the show in Easton. We missed all our east coast clients and look forward to seeing you next year or somewhere on the road.

Going LIVE soon selling small sculptures on the website through PayPal at www.kennewmansculptures.com We have secured our site with SSL and payments will be made directly through PayPal, which is always secured. We started using a PayPal Here reader at shows over 3 years ago and we believe they are an excellent and secure credit card provider. We can also invoice through email.

Visa—MasterCard—American Express—Discover

PayPal—Bank Transfers—Checks

Ask about our payment plans for those needing a little extra time to purchase a sculpture by check or direct deposit, no interest!

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, its 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 the 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.



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. As we came over a rise, 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—free spirit.

The horse – large Appaloosa, (no boy with confidence would pick a small horse), which the Nez Perce were noted for with 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 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

Pre-cast pricing is available on these sculpture: send email or call for exceptional pricing for the first 5 in each edition.

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. I 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. I came to understand that 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 I travel as an artist, I find similar stories repeating 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 heart with pride.

Elements of The Last Whistle

Stairs – Industry, tapered steps suggest the loss of industry in America. **Iconic Lunch Box** - Carried not just nourishment, but notes from home and pay check 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 created the fabric of our society.

~ QUOTE ~

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

Sculpture [NARRATIVES](#) are shared on the website, so that you can enjoy my passion for sculpting in words.



Awaking to that wonderful call of the Bobwhite. A perfect morning, the warming sun is rising on a thin layer of snow. All will be gone soon. Or, this can change in a heartbeat; this perceived beauty can be fleeting with the unpredictable elements of nature and the peril of a ground bird.

The blending of different medium provides for a unique avenue of emotional and tactile response, which allows one to interpret a moment in nature.

AWARDS AND EXHIBITIONS:

Leonard J Meiselman Sculpture Award—48th Society of Animal Exhibition
Neville Public Art Museum, Green Bay WI
Small Work—Big Impressions, Wildlife Experience Museum, Parker CO
Endangered Species – Flora and Fauna in Peril, Wilding Art Museum, Los Olivos and the Department of Interior Museum, Washington DC

FALL TRAVELS—SCULPTING ON THE ROAD

Sharing our journey is part of the narrative of an artist's life. Just before Labor Day we headed on a trip of a lifetime. One filled with monumental events, family, museums tours, a museum exhibition opening, Michigan and Wisconsin sunsets, hikes, lightning storms and rough waters.

We began by flying off to Flint, Michigan and renting a car (one made in Japan with NY plates—felt a little awkward when driving around all with all the American made car in MI). Enjoyed a home cooked meal and warm bed with cousins. Our Michigan connection is growing, an uncle who we spent time in TN, raised his 7 children in the Michigan area working for the GM as a pattern maker, in his spare time he carved the figure and wildlife in wood. We reconnected with some of the cousins in 2016 as they headed to Oregon to visit a son working not far from Idaho and then again at ArtPrize in Grand Rapids.

Next day, we were off to the [Saginaw Art Museum](#) for the dedication of The Last Whistle just before Labor Day. With over 400 community members at the event, the Jury Foundation (Sarah and Mike) and the Museum Director Stacey Gannon along with her staff provided a wonderful event, which included regional and local Union members, high school and college trade school booths and a BBQ provided by Meijers. We enjoyed our first taste of [Koegel hot dogs](#). In Stacey's dedication presentation, she included this writing of St Francis of Assisi; "He who works with his hands is a laborer. He who works with his hands and his head is a craftsman. He who works with his hands and his head and his heart is an artist." By focusing on those in the community who work with their hands the museum was able to connect the art museum to a new audience through The Last Whistle. The sculpture was placed on a low pedestal, the museum wanted it approachable to all people, since it represents one of them. Not only did the several cousins show up to celebrate, Harry and Allyson Jones, old friends from Truckee surprised us with their entire family from Flint MI—all autoworkers back in the day—it really is a small world.

The museum sold legacy stones at the base of the sculpture, which enabled those with connections to their blue collar roots to honor their family members, while offsetting installation costs. The museum is maintaining a journal capturing the stories on The Last Whistle and Saginaw's history. A mural was recently completed in the museum and a monthly evening event called Where we Live—explores and honors the past as the community looks to the future. Saginaw had seven automotive part factories, six have been dismantled and in rubble and the last is owned by the Chinese.

Everyone told us we needed to see [Diego Rivera's 1930's Frescoes](#), so the next day we were off to the Detroit Art Museum with family. We will never forget walking into the museum's enclosed courtyard and seeing the unexpected which documents the explosion of manufacturing in the Detroit area and the impacts on the world. We spent time wandering the hall with its expansive frescos walls before sitting down and reading about this amazing piece of art. Everything is important, from the seeds growing from Mother Earth to the evolution of manufacturing, the war effort, chemical engineering etc. Rivera depicts an amazing narrative, just astounding. The composition of the Frescoes and how they interrelate is fascinating, a true artist's narrative. The balance of the art in the museum's collection did not disappoint and the Detroit Art Museum should be on everyone's bucket list.

Next day we are off to the Muskegon Art Museum just north of Grand Rapids, but first a quick stop to visit Beth and Aaron our 2016 ArtPrize hosts. They were so important during ArtPrize, providing not only a reasonable place to stay for 22 days, but meals, great conversations, suggestions - like making a trip to Grand Haven for the sunset and a lasting friendship. Then on to [The Edward S. Curtis North American Indian Exhibition](#), celebrating the artistic genius and lasting cultural legacy, in which Curtis undertook a 30-year quest to create a historical record of what he believed to be a "vanishing race," photographing Native Americans and documenting the rich and varied cultures of over 80 different tribes. The new Native American sculptures I complete only reinforced my reflection of "vanishing races".

Next stop, [Ludington MI](#), to see a growing community of sculptures representing their historical and cultural timeline of their town. Then up to Copper Harbor (The UP) for a couple days of downtime on [Lake Superior in Copper Harbor](#), at a cousin's cabin before heading to Wisconsin for [Birds in Art](#) and more museums and adventures— Check out the blog here for the rest of the story.

*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*

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